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T H E

TRAVELLER'S

POCKET-FARRIER:

O R,

A treatise upon the distempers and common incidents happening to HORSES *on a journey.*

R W I T H

Directions for the choice of a good Road-horse.

Being very useful for all Gentlemen and Tradesmen who are obliged to travel the countries.

——— *Ubi equos mercantur, opertos
Inspiciunt; ne si facies (ut sæpe) decora
Molli fulta pede est, emptorem inducat hiantem,
Quòd pulchræ clunes, breve quòd caput, ardua cervix.*

HORACE.

By HENRY BRACKEN, M.D.

The SIXTH EDITION,

With Additions and Improvements.

Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek
München

Printed in the Year MDCCLI.

TRAVERS

TO CREDIT - RARER :

450

A small paper slip, possibly a label or a piece of evidence, is visible on the right side of the page. It contains some faint, illegible text.

H. 17

Directions for the choice and growth of plants.

Being very kind to all children and to
those who are obliged to work in the
house.

By the Court: 1875

The 31 N T M N D I N I O W

Printed by the York M.D.C. Co.

T H E

P R E F A C E.

IT was once my design never more to have appeared in print with respect to treating upon distempers incident to horses; but the multiplicity of small books lately published upon the subject, and designed, as it were, for the pocket, all which contain such out-of-the-way reasoning, that no man of sense (in our way) can read any of them, without being surpris'd that such nonsense should be vendible; I say, this consideration, together with strong solicitations from several gentlemen, has oblig'd me to set my hand to the present undertaking; and I doubt not, if the precepts laid down therein are duly attended to, I shall have the thanks of many, whom as yet I am unacquainted with.

There is one thing I must frankly confess, and the same spirit will appear through all my writings, *viz.* that of being no friend

to the apothecary. And I must beg leave to tell the reader, that the deficiency with respect to a great number of *recipe's* or *prescriptions*, which some people may lay to my charge, does not proceed from my not being acquainted with the *materia medica*, or the drugs comprised under what we style the *animal, vegetable, and fossil kingdoms*: no; it is well known, my education has been such, and my practice so long and extensive, that the objection, if made, scarce merits my answer. However, thus far I am obliged to tell the reader, *viz.* That the knowledge I have in the art of physick, has abundantly convinced me of the nauseousness of most of the *recipe's* or *receipts* (as they are vulgarly called) with which most of our books, writ by farriers, as well as physicians, are crammed; and that there is no greater sign of a physician's being either a fool or a knave, than his making an apothecary's shop of his patient's belly. Indeed the young graduate is so at a loss, at his first entering into practice, that he is never satisfied, till he has made his patient run through all the courses he has read of in like cases: but a better experience,

ence, founded upon a true theory, afterwards tells him, that the knowledge of the disease and its causes, (so far as we mortals are allowed to trace such causes); I say, this tells him, that he who prescribes largely, is either a *tyro* in the art, or a knave to his patient, by preferring the apothecary's gains to the recovery of the sick. Yet let me not be understood, but that there are some particular chronic cases, which may require a series of prescriptions, and a long continuance in a course of medicines; but even these are too too often so ill adapted to the curative inclinations, and the generality of mankind so unfitly qualified to form a right judgment with respect to a physician's skill, that it would almost make an honest ingenuous man forswear the practice of physic: because, from an honourable profession, it is now become more a trade; and dress and address, together with a barren superfluity of words, is a better recommendation, than a diploma, founded upon the strictest examination, and the knowledge of nature. And indeed, how should it prove otherwise, when we can scarce come into a company, where we
could

could pick out a single man that is able to reason justly with respect to the nature of things, or even give us an account of the make of his lungs, stomach, bowels, &c. ? so stupidly ignorant are they in the knowledge of anatomy, or the structure of their own bodies. But enough of this : for I do not imagine I shall be able to set every person to rights, and oblige the bulk of mankind to think justly ; no, I am far from it : but thus far I am sure of, *viz.* that I have lent a helping hand towards it ; and that although the old adage of *Humanum est errare* seems to retort upon me, yet the fewer errors we commit, the better ; and that is what I mean by thinking justly.

There can be no greater uneasiness to a man of sense, who is thoroughly acquainted with our business, than to hear gentlemen in other professions talk about distempers, recipe's, &c. If they did but know, how grating and disagreeable their discourse was in such particulars, and what profound nonsense they were uttering, they would blush, and rather chuse to sit silent ;
though

though to be tongue-tied is a hard case, you'll say.

Lastly, Let me only beg of the illiterate reader forgiveness, for degrading our profession so often as he may think I have, by writing so much about horses; I say, forgiveness of the illiterate, because the truly learned know better; and are satisfied, that as a horse is compounded of fibres differently modified, as well as replete with blood and humours, there is as much philosophy, if not more, required in treating of the diseases, &c. incident to such creature, as in writing upon the distempers which befall mankind: and for such cause, I have taken occasion frequently, in the following piece, to reason comparatively with respect to the difference of distempers in men and horses, and shewn why the latter are free from some ailments to which the first are subject; and collected my thoughts into as little compass as I could, so as to be of use to gentlemen-travellers, &c.

though to be connected is a hard case,
I say, let me only beg of the illustrious
reader forgiveness for dragging out pro-
position so often as he may think I have
written so much about horses; I say, for-
giveness of the illiterate, because the truly
learned know better; and are satisfied
that as a horse is composed of bones dis-

E R R A T A.

Pag. lin.

- 13. 3. for 86 read 84**
- 24. 19. for 85 read 83**
- 25. 33. for 59 read 58**
- 131. 12. for 000 read 115**

which belated mankind; and for such cause,
I have taken occasion frequently, in the
following piece, to reason comparatively
with respect to the difference of dispositions
in men and horses, and shew why the
latter are free from some ailments to which
the first are subjects; and collected my
thoughts into as little compass as I could, so
as to be of use to gentlemen-travellers, &c.

T H E

T R A V E L L E R ' s

P O C K E T - F A R R I E R .

I A M going to enter upon an inquiry, which every man takes himself to be in some sort, if not altogether, master of, *viz.* the description of a good road-horse; I say, every man that has seen the world, and who has bought, fold, or exchanged horses, would willingly believe, or indeed is rather positive in his opinion, with respect to the shape, action, &c. of a road-horse. And, for this cause, many gentlemen and tradesmen happen to be so unskilfully mounted: for would people only hearken a little to the wholesome advice I shall hereafter give; I say, would they only do this, they might set themselves upon a par, and be able to deal with the most cunning dealer of them all. And this must be done by trusting to their own eyes and senses: for the dealers will not scruple to assure you, that the horse they are about to sell, is perfectly sound in all respects, and this at the expence of the most solemn protestations. And herein I must acknowledge, that I was myself once imposed on by being too credulous in purchasing a horse, without due examination, upon the dealer's word. The trick was this, *viz.* In the hoof was a crack, which remained after a quitter-bone that had been ill cured; and the vacancy was stopped up with a cement, of the nature of what we call putty; and the hoof blackened well with tallow and soot, or the like, whereby this grand blemish was screened for a time. But

Dealer's word not to be regarded.
The author deceived by taking a dealer's word.

A

when

when the horse came to travel amongst rough stones, the cement shook out, and a large crack appeared between the sole of the foot and the coronet. So that I advise every chapman to inspect the hoofs very well before he buys the horse, lest, as *Horace* in my motto has expressed it, he finds to his cost, that *a fair face is often supported by a soft hoof*; and in all respects to be very cautious and circumspect: for experience teaches, that there is no dealer amongst them will scruple to exercise some few of the many shifts of their calling. Nor can a dealer's word be in the least relied on: for I do declare, that no person I ever purchased a horse from, (and I have purchased many), could be brought to speak truth; I mean, no person who made the buying and selling horses most of his business. And, for this reason, I must advise my countrymen, not to give such fellows leave to talk much, seeing they are therefore lying much: for the more loquacious they are, the more unaccountably intolerable do they grow; making protestations, and binding such too with oaths, although all this while they are sensible they lie confoundedly.

A necessary
caution.

For these, in my opinion, weighty and important reasons, candid reader, let me conjure thee to trust to thy own eyes and senses, rather than the fine, and in their way florid speeches of the jockies, or dealers in horses; who, having lost all sense of shame, would not scruple even to cheat their own fathers, or bosom-friends. But, that I may not become too prolix, and thereby deviate from my present design, I must hasten to my purpose, and give a short, but as succinct an account as possibly I can, of the necessary qualifications and requisites we should look for in a horse designed for the road. And therefore, first, as to his size:

No man can precisely estimate the number of hands high, as the dealers call it, which a horse should measure; since there are good and bad of all sizes and colours: yet the middle-sized horse, in general, proves best, that is, about fourteen hands and

The size of
a horse;
which size
the best in
general.

and an inch: for all those not exceeding fourteen hands are esteemed only galloways; although I must own there are of that size will perform nimbly and well, with weights that would make a large horse sag.

I have said, that the size should be full fourteen, as the jockies express themselves, four inches to the hand: but the reader must observe, that my meaning is to suit the horse to the rider; for a man of sixteen stone or upwards; should ride a horse fourteen and a half hands high, and proportionably strong withal. Therefore, to suit the mover to the moved, is one very material article in this affair; seeing the horse which fails in performance of his exercise, while he, as it were, lugs along his luxuriantly burdensome master, may do the business of a good horse, were he beltrid by one of horseman's weight.

One should suit the mover to the body which is to be moved.

When you have seen a horse perform his exercise in the dealer's way, you should ride him yourself two or three miles in rough uneven road, and give him his head, without forcing him by whip or spur, to perform with more life and spirit than he is otherwise inclinable; and if he walks, trots, and canters nimbly, without dwelling upon the ground, taking up his fore-feet moderately high, and stepping longer or shorter, according as he finds there is occasion, and going near before and wide behind, (more of which when I come to treat on thin shoulders, p. 15.), this is the beast that is likely to carry his master well, because his business or exercise is a pleasure to him.

The author's description of a good road-horse.

Indeed, it is hard to find a horse, in every respect, such as will please one who is a good judge of the many necessary requisites required in a road-horse: therefore I advise the reader, who wants a horse for the road, neither to be too forward in his choice, nor too nice in distinctions; seeing *a new broom sweeps clean*; and *'tis a good horse that never stumbles*. I must own, that out of above sixty horses and mares I have had in my time, I never had above three that pleased me thoroughly for the road;

A man should not be too hasty in his choice, nor too nice in distinctions.

The author mentions his having buried a mare in her skin, &c. on account of her goodness.

road ; and one of the three was such a non-pareil, that I was superstitious enough at her death to bury her in her skin and shoes, with ale and rosemary ; and, was it not too great an oddity, I would yet raise an obelisk to her memory, with an inscription that should contain more truth than commonly appears amongst the records of the dead. But to return :

When you have found a horse of a proper size and strength, fit to carry the weight designed, you should be careful that he has no blemishes that may hinder his performing well upon the road. But first of all mind his age.

Age of a horse, how to know it.

The age of horses is known by several signs : and I shall only mention a few ; but yet they shall be such as seldom deceive the purchaser.

If a horse is young, his tush will be sharp-pointed, and grooved or hollowed on the inside ; and the longer the tush is, together with a yellowness, the older he may be esteemed : though indeed some old horses of mettle, which have been rid in large or cannon bits, have their tushes very much worn down by champing or playing upon the bridle ; but then such horse may be known to have passed his prime, by the length of his teeth, and the upper jaw overpassing the under.

A cheat practised by jockies, in burning horses teeth.

Some horses have such mouths, or at least are so managed by the dealers who have them to sell, that it is hard for a person not well skilled in the affair, to tell the age : for there is an art of burning the teeth, after they have been cut with a graver, which makes the mark appear somewhat like a true one. Yet this cheat is discoverable, by the other signs not corresponding with the corner-teeth which have been thus managed.

The length of the teeth, and the narrowness of the under jaw-bone, (for you must know, horses heads grow longer as they grow older, and hence the narrowness of the under jaw proceeds) ; I say, from the length of the teeth, the narrow jaw and the lean roof of the mouth, we may know an old horse from a young one. Yet if a horse has gone from

from his youth upon a salt-marsh or bare pasture, his teeth will be worn short by the sand and dirt he has chewed with his grafs. Therefore it is to be observed, that according to a horse's living, his teeth will be more or less long at the same age; that is, a horse which has had little trouble to fill his belly, will have a good mouth at a dozen years of age; whereas one that has pastured on short grafs, will lose the mark much sooner. And for this reason the horses in the army preserve their mouths, as we say, for a long time.

A salt-marsh pasture wears a horse's teeth fast.

It is harder to know a mare's age than a horse's, by reason few of them have tusshes. However, there are signs sufficient besides to ascertain it, viz. by the length of the teeth, &c. as I have already mentioned.

A mare's age difficult to determine.

When a horse is *seeled*, (as the jockies term it), that is, when he has his eye-brows white, he may be supposed about fifteen or sixteen years of age: and some colours feel sooner than others; such are, the black, light-sorrel, and dark-chefnut.

Colour of a horse, some of them feel sooner than others.

There are many other marks or characteristics of a horse's having passed his prime of age, viz. dropping a joint in his rump, &c. But of this last sign few are so nice-fingered, as to distinguish it; and, in my thoughts, it is no more than the first joint of the rump next the tail-head, that grows bigger and more bony, as the horse advances in years; according as it is observable in human bodies, viz. that the softer parts, such as the cartilages, and even the very capillary vessels themselves, ossify, and become bony by age. Which is the true way of accounting for a natural death, or a death brought about by age, without any other infirmity; that is, every animal has a greater number of blood-vessels, &c. when in embryo, than afterwards: for, as we increase in years, those vessels become obliterate; I mean, a great many of the capillary vessels, &c. ossify; from whence proceeds that stiffness in the joints, together with a dulness in all the senses, such as is the common concomitant of old age and infirmity. I say, for

Comparison between human and brute creatures, with respect to the characteristics of old age; and a natural death accounted for.

Dropping a joint in the tail, a mere piece of conceit.

The author supposes it possible to know an old horse from a young one, by only looking round him from head to tail, without touching him.

The eyes of tender gentlemen, than any other of the parts of horses.

The author recommends it to gentlemen to study a little the anatomy of the eye.

these reasons, the joints in the tail of a horse, which, when he was young, were cartilaginous or gristly, become more rugged and bony as he advances in years. Therefore, as to dropping a joint at fifteen or sixteen years of age, it is all a farce, and mere piece of conceit.

I believe it is possible to come pretty near the knowledge of a horse's age by only looking at him round. Yet this is a nice judgment, and not to be found in many people, unless amongst the connoisseurs. However, if you find a horse has what we call *saddle-blains* upon his back in many places, and gray hairs above his eyes, he is an old horse, unless, as to the latter, his colour makes some alteration that way; which it will, if he has naturally white hairs mixed with sorrel, or indeed with any other sort, over his body.

When you are satisfied about his size and age, you should next of all view his eyes, whether they are good or no: for in this point, I believe, there are more gentlemen jockeyed, than in all the other points relating to horses. And the reason is plain, *viz.* Few people will take the trouble of learning the anatomy of the eye, which may be shewn even to perfection in half an hour, and the proper lecture read upon it, I mean, so far as it is necessary for a gentleman to hear, that wants only to be informed of the parts which compose the organ of sight. But as to the science of optics, indeed, it would be too tedious for tradesmen, artizans, or people of business, to meddle with; since, unless they would go through with the thing, a smattering would only serve to make them more intolerable; as it commonly happens, when people are intoxicated with shallow draughts of any of the sciences. Therefore, what is necessary to be learned, in order to judge rightly whether a horse has good eyes or no, consists in the knowledge of the parts containing and those contained, which constitute the eye. And herein I must ask the reader's pardon, for not entering into particulars at present; seeing I design only a kind of breviary for the pocket.

pocket. So I must refer the curious to my first volume of *Farriery improved*, where they may meet with ample satisfaction in this particular. Yet, as far as I can say without prolixity, I will; that the reader may not believe me imperfect, when he has not the opportunity of getting the book I have mentioned. And, first,

It is said by Capt. *Burdon*, that “if a horse’s eyes look lively and clear, and you can see to the bottom, and the image of your face is reflected from thence, and not from the surface of the eye, they are good; but if muddy, cloudy, or coal-black, they are bad.” Why now, I will venture to say it, that a horse shall have all the perfections the Captain speaks of, and yet be stone-blind; for he may have a *gutta serena*, and his eyes be as clear as possible, &c. But then the *pupil*, or what the common people call the *sight* of the eye, will not dilate and contract according as the horse is placed in the shade, or in a more glaring light; which it will apparently, provided his eyes are good. Therefore what the Captain means, though he does not know what he would be at, in the main, is this, *viz.* When the crystalline humour, (which lies immediately behind the pupil, or hole in the *iris*, which is what people call the sight of the eye); I say, if the crystalline be not thoroughly transparent, but rather of a bluish cast or hue, it is a certain token that the eyes are not good: therefore it behoves us to view them in a clear light, and not in a kind of shade, as is commonly advised by authors; I mean, with respect to the crystalline alone. But as to the dilatation and contraction of the pupil or sight of the eye, this must be observed in the dark shade first, and afterwards in the light; and if in the first trial the pupil dilates largely, and contract again, as the horse is exposed to a more clear sun, you may conclude his eyes are good. And in this sort you may observe a cat’s eyes will be affected by her being in a shade, or a great light: though indeed it will be more apparent in a cat than a horse; because the

Capt. *Burdon*’s description of a horse’s eyes censured.

Eyes, signs to be observed in them.

first

Dilatation
and contra-
ction of the
pupil of the
eye, and the
reasons.

first has the eye composed of exquisitely delicate and fine fibres, that are stimulated or actuated upon by the smallest particles of light, in order to enable that creature to seize her prey in the night-season. Again,

Small eyes a
very bad
sign.

The eyes should neither be too large nor too small : for, according to the old adage, *viz. A great head and little wit, a little head and never a bit.* So that the most natural things are best : for if the eye be small and cloudy, it is not only a sign of a fullen bad disposition and temper, but he is also in danger of going blind by a *marasmus*, or consumption of the eye, if ever he come to hard exercise. And indeed I cannot say, I ever knew a right good horse with small eyes ; for which reason I abominate the *garronly breed*, and condemn them to the collar, the station designed them by nature and the stars. But,

The aspect
or look of a
horse de-
notes his
temper.

As in mankind the aspect or turn of the eye denotes a person of this or that temper, so in horses it is almost an infallible rule. Therefore always chuse one of a brisk lively countenance, that plays his ears, and champs upon his bit, when he is put into a little hurry of spirits by his rider. Yet he should not do this in too hot and fiery a way ; for that would denote him ill-natured, and incline us to think, that he would start at every bird that flies out of a bush, or at every object that comes suddenly upon him. But this knowledge is one of the *Je ne sçai quoi's*, or inexpressible qualifications, which some gentlemen have more than others.

A horse's
starting on
the road, no
sign of bad
eyes.

There is no greater error in nature, than that common one, *viz. If a horse start upon the road, he has bad eyes.* I say, this is a very common saying, but a very unjust one : for it is in the nature of the horse, not in the make of his eye, which occasions this fault ; that is, some breeds of horses will for ever start and fling about upon seeing unusual objects, more especially at logs of wood lying in the lanes, &c. Neither is it at all possible to cure such horses of starting, unless you put out their eyes.

I have seen a gentleman ride with a bridle, whereon was fixed the same kind of small flaps of leather, as we see the coach-harness-bridles; but whether it did any service, so as to prevent his horse from starting, I do not know. His name is *Thomas Godsalve, Esq;* of *Rigmaiden-hall*, in the county of *Westmoreland*, a man well known to many for his manner of life, &c.

We generally say, *Starting is a jade's trick*; and indeed I have found, that I could take some horses off their frolicks before the setting sun. Yet these sort of beasts are, in fact, only fit for the *Petit-maitre*; who, being as nimble as a cat, will fall upon his feet, tofs him which way you will.

The horse fit only for a *petit-maitre* described.

The colour of the eye, as we call it, is often the cause of a good or bad eye. What I mean by the colour is this, *viz.* the colour of the *iris*, or outward part of the *uvea*, which, in mankind, makes the black, brown, gray, or blue eye, &c.; I say, this part of a horse's eye makes the *wall eye*, the *hazle-eye*, &c. And as, in human creatures, I have often observed the fibres of the *iris*, near the circular ring of the hole called *pupilla*, or sight of the eye, of a darkish brown colour, and the rest of that membrane of a quite different hue; whereby the pupil would scarcely dilate or contract, by reason this brownness was a distemperature of the small *fibrillæ*; even so in horses I have found the like affection; and therefore, that such eyes would not continue good a long time. Neither is there any help to be administered on such occasions, or trial to be made, worth while, tho' the horse were of value.

Colour of the eye often the cause of a good or bad one.

The author's observation of the fibres of the *iris*, and the distemperature thereof.

It is plain, that the colour of the *iris* denotes a horse's eyes good or bad in a great measure; although I must indeed confess, that the crystalline humour is one of the parts of the eye that is most often faulty, by reason it is of the firmest consistence of any of the humours of the eye, *viz.* than either the watry or glassy humour; and for this reason it is most apt to have its fibres become crisp and

Colour of the *iris* denotes the eyes good or bad. Crystalline humour often faulty.

The au-
thor's fur-
ther account
with respect
to the parts
of animals
ossifying, or
growing bo-
ny by age.

Eyes, the
distempera-
tures of old
age affecting
them, hard
to be reme-
died.

Paracelsus
the German
chymist
mentioned.

and dry, when, by any acidity, or other distem-
perature of the watry humour, (with which it is
surrounded), it is more disposed to it, than when
in its natural state. And indeed we may, in this
respect, call again to mind what I have a while a-
go hinted at, *viz.* the ossifying tendency, to which
all the parts of animals are through age disposed :
for even the *capsula* or *tunica aranea*, which is the
sacculus or bag that keeps the crystalline humour
(together with a ligament not long ago discovered)
in its place ; I say, the *capsula* of the crystalline,
and even the crystalline itself, will ossify gradually
as we grow in years, and the rays of light will be
with more difficulty admitted through in their way
to the *retina*, or net-like membrane, spread over
the fund of the eye, on which the images of objects
are painted. But this is by far too large a field of
philosophy for a pocket-companion, to which size
I would willingly confine my present undertaking.
Yet I am sorry to part with the subject, without
observing the too great foible of mankind, *viz.*
their going to ignorant and unskilful itinerants, for
the cure of deafness and dimness of sight, at sixty
years of age and upwards ; whereas it is scarce pos-
sible for a man of the deepest knowledge in the op-
tical science, to remedy the common distempers in-
cident to old age, (even setting aside the tendency
to ossify, as before spoken of), otherwise than by
spectacles.

Indeed the plainness or flatness of the eyes in
human bodies when aged, are best remedied by
convex lenses, or spectacles of a proper sphere. But
then again, how must we make the bluish crystal-
line become as transparent and clear as it was be-
fore its *fibrillæ* were altered and shrivelled, or turn-
ed, as it were, bony, by age ? No, no ; this is a-
bove our art, notwithstanding *Paracelsus*, the great
German chymist, pretended he could make men a-
new, by the help of his *elixir proprietatis* ; the me-
dicine which the inimitable *Butler*, in his *Hudibras*,
hints at in the lines, where he says,

What

*What medicine 'twas that Paracelsus
Could make a man with, as he tells us.*

In fine, the *hazle-eye* (as we call it) in horses, The hazle-
and, in human bodies, the *nut-brown eye*, is the eye best.
best. I mean, the *hazle-eye* is best in horses ; but,
in the latter, I have observed the *blue eye* continue
clear as long, or longer, than any other colours,
though the *nut-brown eye* is more beautiful.

I say, the *hazle-eye* is best ; because the horse that The wall-
has such eye, is generally of a good colour : where- eye menti-
as the *wall-eye* is common to the ball'd horse ; a oned.
colour the least coveted, because they have often
white soft hoofs, and are frequently of a washy or
lax constitution. When I am speaking of a washy- A washy
constitution'd horse, I cannot help recommending horse bad,
it to my readers, never to chuse such a one for the
road ; for it is a sign the digestive faculty is weak,
and that his exercise is performed with labour and
trouble. I mention this by the by as a general
maxim, where there are no other causes contra-
indicant. And for my part, if I see a horse empty
himself often upon the road, I infer he is no horse
for a long journey ; unless you want to make a ske-
leton of him, in which case his fat would only be
troublesome.

I have said, the small eye that seems sunk in the Large eye
head is bad ; so again is the exorbitantly large eye : denotes a
for, as the first is in danger of blindness from want well-bred
of moisture, the latter is often troubled with a too horse.
great redundancy ; and, of consequence, subject to
what people generally rank under the name of hu-
mours. However, of the two evils, the large eye
is to be preferred before the small one, since it is
the token of a bred horse, as we say.

Of all the people, whether physicians, surgeons, The author
or farriers, that I have seen since I returned from blames peo-
my studies abroad, I do not know, that I have ple for their
conversed with one that had a thorough notion of indolence in
the eye and its parts : and although the reader searching in-
may, from this expression, imagine, that I have to the nature
only conversed with a few of each of the profes- of things.
sions

sions mentioned, I can assure him, I am not unacquainted with what is done in our way, both at home and abroad. And I declare it, the geese far exceed the swans in number; and will always do so, while the generality of mankind are so indolent and careless in their researches after truth and nature.

The necessary requisites mentioned with regard to a practiser in the art of physic.

A common farrier and common fool one and the same thing.

Surgeons and farriers censured.

What I would from hence infer, is this, *viz.* People generally take things upon account, and form conclusions upon false principles, rather than be at the pains of a more profitable inquiry; wherefore we must expect books upon books, stuffed full of receipts, and these too exceedingly ill compounded, for all distempers; whereas the greatest nicety lies in the knowledge of the disease and its causes; I say, its causes, so far as we can ætiologically trace them. But when we are arrived at this pitch of skill in the profession, by the helps afforded us from the history of diseases, together with those of geometry, numbers, chymistry, or what the learned style *natural magic*; as also a quick apprehension of the property of body, or the laws of nature: I say, these requisites, together with that most necessary one of anatomical observation, founded on the dissection of, as well as the comparative argumentation upon human and brute creatures, will enable us to judge between a physician and an empiric; and teach us, that a common farrier and common fool are one and the same thing. And from hence it will appear, how very difficult a task it is to form a right judgment about distempers, and to prescribe remedies. Yet, notwithstanding this, almost every man thunders out his nonsense by wholesale, telling us of his bundle of receipts, which he pretends came *probatum est* from his great-grandfather's father, &c.

The thought which led me into this digression, proceeds from my observation made with relation to eye-waters, powders, &c. used for distempered eyes in men and horses, when the disorder was seated within the globe or ball of the eye; and that therefore the surgeon or farrier might as well have

have applied the thing to the heels as to the eyes, and with equal success; which I shall shew hereafter, (*p. 86. &c.*), when I come to treat about the distempers which ordinarily happen to this part of the body, when a horse is upon his journey. Now to return:

Capt. Burdon, in his *Pocket-farrier*, advises us to mind a horse's knees are not broken when we want to buy; which is a very good caution, and what all people are, or ought to be aware of: yet a horse may come down by accident, although he is no common stumbler. So that you must mind the scars are not of a sort callous and hard; which if they be, and that the hair is curled about them, it denotes him an old offender. But, in the main, a horse may be very well judged of, whether or no he is a stumbler, by his way and manner of movement described a while ago, (*p. 3.*): for if he get off the ground nimbly and well, without dwelling upon it, it is a good sign, though he may indeed now and then trip; but his other feet will catch him so quickly, that he is far from the denomination of a *stumbling horse*, being rather a *cockney-horse*, that goes *tilt upon tilt*, or *two up and two down*, as we say. The same sort of gate the cocknies, or those born and bred within the sound of *Bow-bell*, usually ride.

Knees broken, a good caution hinted at by Capt. Burdon.

The author's notion of a cockney horse.

We often hear the dealers say, "The horse is sound of *wind, limb, and eye-sight*." But the expression favours more of custom and habit than of truth: for to be sound of *wind, limb, and eye-sight*, and to have neither *splint, spavin, nor wind-gall*, comprehends so much, that it is very rare to find a horse answer these too common phrases. So that when a dealer expresses himself in this way, and goes on with his horse, being as good as any in *England, &c.* you must only take the thing *en passant*, viz. in at one ear and out at the other.

We are not to take notice of all that the jockies say about splint, spavin, and wind-gall.

It is common to begin with the inspection of a horse by looking first in his mouth, then at his eyes, &c. But the not-to-be-excelled lyric poet, in my motto in the title, forewarns us to take care,

Horace's notion about the choice of horses.

that "a fair face be not (*ut saepe*) says he, propt
 "up or supported by a soft hoof." And if we
 would only attend to what he has feelingly expressed
 in the aforesaid motto, together with the account
 he before gives us of making choice of one of the
 fair sex, we should not meet with so many *Smith-*
field bargains as we do in either of the commodi-
 ties. But consequences are too seldom attended
 to; so that we are oftenest beaten with our own
 rod.

Wind, how
 to judge of
 the sound-
 ness of it.

Asthma,
 what.

As to a horse's wind being found, it is easily
 judged of in some cases, and but with difficulty in
 others: for if you order the jockey only to give
 him a good brushing gallop, every one knows, it
 will make him heave in the flanks, and often occasion
 coughing. Yet this does not hold true in all cases:
 for I have observed as many different kinds of
 asthma's in horses, as in mankind; and a broken
 wind is nothing but an asthma; which term is of
Greek termination, and signifies nothing more than
 to breathe with difficulty.

Phthisicky
 horse, what.

I say, it is hard, in some sorts of asthma's af-
 fecting broken-winded horses, to know them: for
 there are degrees of this disorder; and some horses
 are so slightly touched, that it scarce deserves the
 name of a broken wind; but he should rather be
 called a *phthisicky horse*: and although in winter,
 when such horse eats only dry food, he coughs
 and heaves much in the flanks, yet at grass it is
 hardly perceivable, notwithstanding you were to
 give him a brushing gallop, as aforesaid. So that I
 have known a pretty good judge of horses, buy
 one of this sort in the summer-time, without find-
 ing out the bite till the horse came to *hard meat*.

A caution a-
 gainst being
 cheated with
 a broken-
 winded
 horse.

Therefore I cannot direct the reader how he may
 better guard against being cheated in this respect,
 than by having the horse kept at hard meat; I
 mean at good hay for two or three days; and in
 that time one may find it out. I say, good hay;
 for otherwise he will not fill his belly sufficiently
 to require a deal of water to dilute: but when he
 has drank his belly-full, after eating such hay,
 and

and been kept from water about twenty four hours, the diaphragm or midriff will be so pressed against his lungs, that if he has any impediment there, he will certainly shew it, and more especially if his head be turned down-hill.

I remember one of the best-running galloways of his time was troubled with a phthifick cough; it was the famed galloway belonging to Mr. Metcalf of York, commonly called *Metcalf's galloway*: and yet this very galloway would master most horses when it came to the *pinch of the game*. Which shews us, that there are degrees of this distemper, as before hinted; and that therefore every clap is not the grand pox.

The famous galloway called *Metcalf's galloway*, his wind tainted, though he would out-run most horses.

In like manner have I seen some men, who, though fond of running after a pack of hounds, could hardly mount the summit of the first hill. Yet let them but get under their wind, (as we say), and it should be a good man that could go before them any part of the chace afterwards. But I shall shew the case more plain, when I come to touch upon the distemper called a *broken wind*.

A man may have one sort of an asthma, and yet run well after a pack of hounds.

It is certainly good to have a horse thin-shouldered and narrow-breasted; because if he is loaded there, it throws his shoulder-blades farther asunder, and causes him to go wide before, and throw out his fore-feet in such a manner, that he will be apt to stumble, and also to ride very dirty.

Thin shoulders best, and why.

The horse that has his breast full and prominent, is (by some adepts in the *hippiatral* science) styled a *marble-breasted horse*, because his breast stands out round like a marble. This is a very bad sort of a breast for a road-horse, or indeed for any horse that is designed to make good way, as the sailors term it. Therefore, before you buy a horse, be sure to stand right in a line with his head; and mind his breast do not keep his knees too far off one another: for the nearer he stands with his knees, (so that he do not go so near before, as to cut in the usual places), the more reason have you to judge he will get forward on the road, provided he does not turn out his toes, or knuckle,

A marble-breasted horse described.

The author's account of the most proper movement for road-horses.

A horse should go near before, and pretty wide behind.

as we call it ; in which case he will be apt to cut, although he stand ever so well with his knees. Therefore, I say, *Mind his breast be narrow, thin and lean, his shoulder-points not projecting forwards, his fore-legs straight and almost perpendicular* : for these requisites, together with what *Horace*, in the afore said motto, styles *pulchræ clunes*, will throw the horse naturally into a good way of going, viz. near before, and wide behind ; or, if I may be allowed to refine a little, I would say nearest before, and pretty wide behind.

Saddle-horse. Capt. Burdon says, that “ a saddle-horse should “ have thin shoulders and a flat chest, that his “ fore-feet should stand boldly forward and even, “ and his neck rise semicircular ;” which is what *Horace*, in my motto, as afore said, styles *ardua cervix*.

The rainbow neck mentioned.

This is a good account of what we call the *fore-hand* of a horse, or, as some pronounce it, *fore-end*.

Thin-breasted horse good.

The chest here hinted at, by the name of a *flat chest*, is sometimes called a *deep chest*, like that of a greyhound ; and if we consider, we shall find, that that sort of shaped chest, is most likely to let his shoulders stand near together at the points, and then, of consequence, he will have a thin breast.

Some thick-shouldered horses may move well.

I must confess I have now and then seen a thick-shouldered horse do his exercise very well, and walk, trot, and canter lineably ; but this is *rara avis*. And I have also remarked, that although a horse move justly and truly upon his limbs, yet he may be subject to ride dirty ; which proceeds from I know not what sort of a turn or cast of the feet in taking them off the ground. Therefore this bad property in a horse, is best discovered after one has rode him ten or a dozen miles in dirty roads ; for in that distance, and scarcely sooner, may he be found to travel clean, or otherwise.

We should ride a horse ten or a dozen miles at least to prove whether he rides clean or no.

A horse may be judged of by the rider's boots, if the roads are wet.

If a horse ride clean, it is a pretty sure sign he moves well upon his limbs. Therefore, when we see a person alight at an inn with his boots tolerably free from dirt, we may almost venture to buy his

his

his horse in the stall, without seeing him on his exercise; for you may, in such situation, judge of his gate, &c. as well as if he were out of the stable. And, in this respect, the galloway I have just mentioned to be buried in skin and shoes, I could have rode from *Lancaster* to *London* in winter-time, which is 180 miles, without having my boots cleaned after I set out; and they should, at the end of the journey, have appeared as clean, and in as good order, as most that travel ten miles upon a tolerable good horse. But this, as I have already said, was one of your *non-pareils*; although it is as common a thing as can be, to hear every man that has a horse, insist strongly, that he will do this, and perform his exercise upon a road, *as well as* People can any horse in England: so prone are we to the abandoned sin of lying, with respect to our discourse relating to horses, hardly speak truth about horses.

Capt. Burdon advises the person who wants to try a horse, "to mount him at the stable-door where he stands, and give him his head, (as we say); and then, if he is a stumbler, he will shew it." But this is no sure guide to go by; because the horses in dealers hands are so used to *ripon-long necks*, upon their shew every day about the stable-door, that they are in continual fear and dread of being stuck up, and run against a barn-side, as is common, to make them bring in the head, and stop upon the haunches. Therefore the best way is, to ride the horse into the lanes a good way from the stable, where he cannot have the least notion of the spurs or whip; and if he then moves as I have described, you may believe he'll turn out well. Yet let me once again remind the reader, to see how he trots down-hill; for that is the *ordeal* trial of a horse's gate; because if he performs well down-hill, he will do it upon any ground whatsoever; seeing it is to be noted, that although many horses seem to go well and justly upon their limbs on even ground, or rather ascending; when they come to trot down-hill, where it is pretty steep, they move in *gemmers*, or as if they were hung

The author bids us beware of rippon-long necks.
Ordeal trial of a horse, what. If a horse trot well down-hill, he will do it any where. Some horses move in gemmers when they trot down-hill.

in fifty pieces. But I own it is hard, nay exceeding rare, to see such a horse as I have described : yet such no doubt there are ; and therefore I must describe the superlative excellencies of a road-horse, by reason, that although those good qualities cannot every where be met with in horses, yet the more of them you find, the better.

I cannot tell what to say more about the make, shape, and choice of a road-horse, than what I have done ; so shall proceed to an account of the diseases incident to him, when in use or on a journey. Only I must conclude this my description, with the golden rule, *viz.* “ Never confide in the

A caution
not to confide
in a dealer
in horses.
Never buy a
horse till
you have
sufficiently
tried him, is
a rule too
seldom ob-
served.

“ dealers in horses, for they will deceive you : nor
“ never buy a horse till you have sufficiently tried
“ him ; that is, till you have seen him perform his
“ exercise well, and rid him in bad roads.”

A horse that
goes ill in
thin bad
shoes, will
do so in new
ones.

We are told by Capt. *Burdon*, that we must mind, before we ride out, or on a journey, whether the horse's shoes be fast, whether they fit easy, whether he cuts before or behind, or *interfere*, as it is called. But these are so commonly observed even by every dabbler in the pleasure of riding, that I need but just cursorily mention it. Only this I must add,

The au-
thor's me-
thod of cure
for cutting.

viz. If a horse cuts with bad thin shoes, he'll go near to do it when he is new-shod ; although it is common with the jockies (upon the shew) to tell you, The horse wants shoeing, which makes him go so ill.

Horses, in
their way of
going, com-
pared to
mankind.

A horse may
be in some
sort helped
by shoeing.

A horse may be in some sort helped, but not a good deal, by a good smith. And, in my opinion, the best way to throw him wider, especially behind, is to have a kind of web, or raised part, turned up for about two inches long on the inside the shoe towards the heel ; for by this I had a mare helped that went too near behind. Yet there is a good deal necessary in a smith, to shoe a horse according to what is required, with respect to their wearing their shoes more in one place than in another. For horses are like mankind one way, *viz.* they, some of them, turn their toes in, some out ; some wear away the shoe at the sprun or toe, some at

at the heel, and others again at the side: therefore a skilful smith will, by his observing the old shoes, and the horse's way of moving, help to remedy the faults in one, and the inconveniences in the other particular.

I believe I might forget to mention it as a thing necessary for us, to view a horse we are about buying, or riding a journey, in the stable, without any person lifting a hand about him, so as to put him out of the posture he chuses to stand in for his ease. However, if I did mention the thing before, I may say as the Deacon said to his Bishop, when he reprimanded him for keeping too long to one text, *viz.* "Till I find the people mind me, "I cannot preach a good sermon too often;" therefore view the horse quietly in the stable, if possible. The reader will wonder why I say, if possible: but I do assure you, there is occasion to look sharp; for the dealers and their emissaries are so *adroit*, that they will slip into the stable before you, and tell the horse his lesson, by whispering him in the ear; or rather, by giving him a good stroke or two with a whip, if he be one of the *plumbeum-caput's*, and don't understand *English*.

Mind a horse how he stands in the stable, before you purchase.

A trick used by jockies to make a horse look sharp and mettlesome.

When a horse is at his own liberty to stand as he pleases in his stall, he will undoubtedly shew whether he is *beaten* or *foundered*, as we say; for he will change first one fore-foot, and then another, sometimes setting the foot out farther, which he wants to ease: so that if you view a horse coolly in his stall for about five minutes, you will see his actions sufficiently with respect to a *hot foot* or *founder*.

Foundered, a horse will shew it in the stable.

Indeed there are some horses that are tender-footed or tender-heeled, from age and hard usage, that do not change and shift the feet, as I have just now hinted: therefore you must observe the nature of the horn of the hoof, *viz.* whether it seems of the brittle or tough sort; for there are some hoofs that will not carry shoes far, and these horses are not fit for northern roads.

Brittle hoof mentioned.

The

The as-
hoofed horse
bad.

Foreign-bred
horses most-
ly deep-hoof-
ed, and why.

Few horses
wear shoes
in Maryland,
or Virginia.

A sound
tough hoof
a very good
property.

Thick
shoulders, if
the hoof is
good, may
do well e-
nough some-
times.

The editor
tells us by
way of iro-
ny, that an
author must
write non-
sense, or else
the common
people pre-
tend not to
understand
his doctrine.
Markham,
De Grey, and
Blundeville,
mentioned.

The *bound hoof*, or *founded hoof*, (as generally styled), is very often shaped more like that of an ass than a horse; that is, it is longish and deep: whereas the good hoof is semicircular and flat, I mean, rather flat than otherwise: And we often see horses, with a deal of foreign blood in them, have the hoofs as just described, viz. high and long: But the hoof in such horses answers the climate well enough which produces it originally; and therefore they may travel well in *Arabia*, or other climes, that are soft and sandy: such as is that of *Maryland*, where few or no horses wear shoes; because you cannot find a stone to throw at a dog, though it is an easy matter to find a stick to beat him with in that country.

There is scarce a better property in a horse than a sound tough hoof, that will abide hard roads, without heating much. And it is odd there should be such difference as there is; for I have seen some horses of twenty or upwards, and in use too, whose hoofs were as good as when they were four years old.

In the next place, If a horse's hoofs are good, he may get over the road without falling down, although his shoulders be none of the thinnest sort; whereas, if he is heavy-shouldered, and has tender hoofs withal, it is ten to one, he goes often to prayers, as we say.

I shall now proceed to investigate the methods to be made use of in the cure of the usual distempers affecting horses on the road, or on a journey; and I hope to do this in such a manner, as that the philosophy may not be found fault with, notwithstanding, in general, it is the practice to write nonsense, or else no body will understand the book.

That is this, every one of low capacity will imagine he reads more sense and reason in *Markham*, *De Grey*, or *Blundeville*, with other ancient farriers, than in some more modern authors, who have taken pains to lead them out of blindness and confusion. For, in the main, unless the operation of medicine be well understood in every respect, how should

should any man that pretends to write, write sense? Yet this sense, I say, is mostly accounted nonsense and whimsy, by reason, if a man happens to have his head better turned than his neighbours, it is more than an even wager, he is called a fool by the bulk of mankind, who will soon say, it is full of crochets and conundrums. Yet let this be as it will, I design to hazard writing sense in the following pages; and if any of my readers find fault with my doctrine, I shall be ready and willing to enter the lists of argumentation, and prove, that what I advance, is built upon sound principles and right reason. But then again, I beg I may not foul my hands with dirty foes: for my antagonist should be a man of learning and candour, different from the common farrier, who, although he may imagine he has a great deal of judgment, will, on a true scrutiny, be found void of sense.

The common farriers are men of no learning.

As the back of a horse is the first place that we should look at when we are to travel a journey, so as to fix the saddle easy, I chuse to begin here.

The back of a horse should be often looked at upon a journey.

Young horses that have not been used to carry loads, nor to have their backs pressed, are most subject to gall and warble. Therefore we cannot take too much care about fixing the saddle properly; and for this end, the shape of the back must be viewed, seeing almost every horse differs in this particular. Therefore the saddle should not only be pretty large in the seat, for a young horse, but the pannel and stuffing should answer the shape of the back in such sort, that it may bear as equally as possible upon all the parts at the same time. And indeed, if we would do things to a nicety, we should have the pannel of the saddle so contrived, as that we might shift the stuffing every morning, or according as we see there is an inflammation coming on; which we may perceive by some places under the saddle sweating, or keeping moist longer than others, especially if you view the back some hours after the saddle has been taken off. And it is these places should be eased, by removing the stuffing, and thereby causing the weight of the rider

The manner of discovering an inflammation under the saddle upon the horse's back.

Scots carriers, their method of loading horses approved.

rider to press upon the other parts that are not heated so much. And even this would only be doing the same thing the Scots carriers do, who load their horses on trusses of straw that lie on each side, and are fixed in such manner, as that the weight may bear equally all over. But then again, these trusses are removed higher and lower every now and then, as the parts begin to heat; by which means a too great inflammation is prevented.

It would be far too tedious a task, at present, for me to shew the different sorts of inflammations, and how, from simple friction, an abscess may at last be occasioned: therefore I shall content myself with pointing out the cure of an overheated back, where the rider has been so careless and indiscreet as to suffer it to be brought about.

A fore back or inflammation, the reason of it defined.

The inflammation I have been speaking of, when the same has advanced so far as to corrupt the juices in the capillary vessels, causes an obstruction, which tends to a tumour we term an *abscess*: but, because the hide of a horse is thick, and the pressure of the saddle often applied, such tumour cannot always be formed large; but, instead thereof, there ouzes out a kind of blister-water, or thin lymph, about the edges of what people generally call the *fit-fast*, which is nothing but a piece of the horse's skin that is overheated, as afore said.

How to save a horse's back from galling.

It is a general maxim amongst us, *viz.* Take away the cause, and the effect will cease; therefore take away the pressure, and the horse's back will not inflame. I mean, take it away before the inflammation is too far advanced, and there will not be so great an obstruction occasioned in the small vessels, so as to cause a fit-fast or warble.

Salt and water, warm urine, vinegar, &c. are commonly used to cool a horse's back that is hurt; but if the skin be broke in holes, from what people call *warbles*, I believe it will be found, that equal quantities of spirit of wine, and tincture of myrrh and aloes, with a little oil of turpentine, will be best to bathe the places with, now and then.

There will be holes or small wounds in the tumours,

mours, called *warbles*, before some people would imagine it: therefore use the said tincture, and, with care, you may proceed upon your journey. I say, with care; because you should look at your horse's back often, and not hang upon him, so as to make the inflammation spread. Therefore, for this end, it is best to walk on foot a while every hour; and bathe the horse's back with *salt and water*, *vinegar*, or any other thing that is an enemy to putrefaction, till such time as his hide will bear pressing without inflammation: which it will do by use, or what we call habit and custom.

A man should now and then walk on foot to ease his horse's back.

If your horse has been so hurt upon his back, as that you are obliged to cut out the *fit-falts*, you may afterwards apply the ointment for the cure of the *navel-gall* hereafter mentioned, and it will cure the wounds as soon as any other; and if the air (which is a great enemy to wounds in general) be kept from the sores, by any sort of adhesive plaster, or even by *wheat-flour* and the *white of an egg*, upon leather, they will heal the sooner. But then the reader must understand, that the horse should not be saddled during the cure.

The cure of a sore back.

As I have mentioned the methods of preserving a horse's back sound and whole, and also the means of curing warbles and *fit-falts*; I shall, in the next place, take notice of the *navel-gall*.

Navel-gall, and its cure.

I do not know why it is called a *navel-gall*; therefore must confess my ignorance in that point, and shall be glad of information with respect to this term, as well as many others in farriery, which do not convey any true idea of the disease to us. However, necessity obliges me to call things as they have been before, otherwise I might as well shut up my books. Therefore let us have it so, provided the farriers will only suffer me to explain it a little more than is expressed by the term.

Navel-gall, the author blames the term as abstruse.

The *navel-gall* then is an *encysted tumour*, or tumour formed by a sort of gelatinous matter, contained in a *capsula* or little bag; and this sort of tumour in human bodies is termed *meliceris*, as the

The author's definition of a navel-gall.

contents lodged in such bag in some sort resemble thin honey.

This swelling (just behind the saddle, and upon the *vertebræ*, or bones of the back) is occasioned from a bruise, or, if you will allow me a finer word, from a contusion of the saddle-tree, that, for want of stuffing the pannel, and the not to be forgiven stupidity of the rider, has rubbed and fridged the horse's back: which swelling, when discovered, (for it is past jesting when it is half in), I say, when it is discovered, the owner or rider of the horse generally gets his saddle chambered or hollowed, to prevent pressure upon the grieved part; then the cause of the inflammation being removed, (before the humours are so far heated as to occasion an abscess), there is only a sort of matter like jelly formed, that, by time, is contained in a *cystis* or bag, which should be cut out, (see the method of doing it, (p. 85.)), and the wound healed with the following ointment, *viz.*

Ointment
for a navel-
gall.

“ Take of rosin and common turpentine, of
“ each four ounces, honey two ounces, sheep-suet
“ three ounces; melt the rosin and turpentine
“ first; then add the honey and sheep-suet; and
“ lastly, stir in by degrees [and till the whole is
“ almost cold] half an ounce of powdered *French*
“ verdigrease, and keep for use: but if it is too
“ stiff for winter, you may add some hog's lard
“ or fresh butter to it.”

Fungous or
proud flesh,
the common
enemy to
wounds in
general.

There is an ointment much like this in Capt. Burdon's *Pocket-farrier*, which he owns to have taken from *De Grey*. But I think there is too much hog's lard in that composition, which makes it generate fungous flesh, or, what people call *proud flesh*. But if the ointment I have just prescribed, be thought too stiff, it may be softened with fresh butter; which is more deterfive than hog's lard, and therefore better prevents superfluous flesh, the common enemy of wounds in general.

The navel-
gall a sign

The navel-gall is a tumour of so cold a nature, that it will often remain even while a horse lives, without

without suppurating or coming to a head : but as it is an ugly blemish, and an indication that the horse has one time or other had an ignorant master, I have pointed out the method of cure.

that the horse has been in a careless hand.

Lastly, I must conclude this part, with advising my readers, that in all kinds of tumours, or swellings occasioned from bruises, the way is, to disperse them, if possible, by cold repellent applications, such as *salt and water*, *vinegar*, or *alegars* ; but if we find they will not give way to resolution, then cataplasms or poultices are most eligible. Neither is it of much concern, what kind of herbs or roots

Most swellings should be dissolved rather than suppurated.

such poultices are composed of ; seeing, if we consider, we shall find, that it is the moisture and warmth of the application that helps to relax the fibres, which are too rigid, and enlarge the diameters of the vessels and parts containing ; and that they thereby, together with the motion of the arterial blood, dislodge the enemy.

The true *modus operandi* of poultices explained.

It is true, that those herbs which contain a mucilaginous or slippery quality, like the *marsh-mallow*, *comfrey*, and the like, are generally allowed to agree best in these cases : but any thing warm, and softening or emollient, if it was only scalded bran and hog's lard, or butter and scalded bran, will do as well as boiled turnips, the capital medicine of Capt. Burdon's Pocket-farrier ; seeing the mechanical operation of a cataplasm or poultice may as easily be explained and accounted for, as the operation of any other application or medicine whatsoever.

Boiled turnips, the capital application of Capt. Burdon's Pocket-farrier.

Capt. Burdon gives a large encomium of his ointment, (described hereafter, *p.* 59.), under the title of the *horse-ointment* ; telling us, amongst the rest of its virtues, that “ nothing will sooner take out the fire after burns or scalds in human flesh ; “ and that he had had personal experience of it.”

Capt. Burdon's ointment for taking out fire mentioned.

But I fear the Captain does not know what is really meant by taking out the fire, as he calls it. If he did, he would not express himself in such a style. For such applications no otherwise take out the fire or abate the inflammation, than

Fluxion, the meaning of the word when applied to an inflammation.

by promoting a suppuration, or discharge of *pus* or matter from the part ; which of consequence helps to unload the vessels, and ease the fluxion. For whatsoever causes too great a flux of blood and spirits to any part of the body, as friction or rubbing will do, as well as fiery particles applied to the skin ; I say, whatever causes too great a motion in any particular part, and thereby forces too great an influx of blood, &c. causes inflammation, as well as fiery particles lodged in the skin by a burn or scald.

Ointment for a burn or scald.

“ Take of rosin, bees-wax, and Burgundy pitch, of each eight ounces, gum-elemy four ounces, oil of olives ten or twelve ounces ; mix, and make an ointment.

This is best when the skin is scalded off ; but if the skin is on, you should apply spirit of wine and camphire, by the help of linen rags dipt in it a while at first, and then the said ointment for some time afterwards.

The best cure for a burn or scald in human bodies.

The best application, while the skin is on, in human and brute creatures, is, to apply spirit of wine, or, for want of it, the strongest rum or brandy ; and if the skin is off, or risen in a blister, snip it, let out the watry *serum*, and apply the aforesaid ointment, to forward the discharge of the fiery particles, if you will have it called taking out the fire.

Another ointment for a burn or scald, which will do wonders where the parts have been burnt, or scalded to excess, viz.

“ Take May butter unsalted. and bees wax, of each half a pound ; oil of olives, twelve ounces ; *lapis calaminaris*, or what we term *calamine*, of the grayish sort, finely powdered, and sifted through a fine searh, five ounces ; ointment of elder, as mentioned in Dr. Quincy's dispensatory, four ounces ; melt the hardest substances, such as the butter and wax, first ; and, lastly, stir in the powder, till the whole is too hard to suffer it to fall to the bottom.”

This

This is, beyond all doubt, the best application for the purposes aforesaid ; I mean, in human bodies as well as horses : but the latter will seldomer have occasion for it, I fancy : and I only set it down by reason children, &c. are often miserably scalded, and therefore it may be of great service to keep it made without the ointment of elder ; which may be put to it upon occasion to make it more soft.

When it is without the ointment of elder, it is the best application that can be to inflammations, heats, or redresses upon any part of the body ; and very often such a thing as this is wanting after a broken skin. But then again I must observe, that nothing in the universe will do in such cases, unless we keep the limb in a horizontal posture, *viz.* on a chair or stool, and that too for a good while, according to the urgency of symptoms.

It would be tedious for me to shew, in every respect, the nature of wounds. However, thus far I must observe, *viz.* that to make the most smooth and even *cicatrix* or scar, after the skin is burnt, scalded, or otherwise hurt, nothing is better than to apply oily and softening ointments : and therefore, in the small-pox after the height, especially in the confluent or flux pox, nothing exceeds Florence oil, sperma ceti, and white wax, mixed to a due consistence, and often applied.

I do not know I ever observed a horse's skin rise in a blister ; and the reason is, they have no *cutis* and *cuticula* or scarf-skin, spread over the *cutis* or true skin : whereas, in human bodies, the *serum* or blister-water lies between the two skins termed *cutis* and *cuticula* ; the last being destined by nature to cover the extremities of the nerves, &c. otherwise the sense of feeling would be more painful than pleasant. And if so, that predominantly reigning sin depending upon the touch, would be far less practised. Therefore, from this short hint, the libertine may prescribe his own cure, if he thinks proper, *viz.* blister the *glans penis*.

The last mentioned author also says, that “ no-thing discovers a bad horseman, even at a distance, “ *stance,*

Capt. Burdon's account

of a good
horseman
confuted.

“ stance, so much as throwing his legs and arms
“ about ; and that a horse will travel ten miles a-
“ day farther with a rider who sits steady upon him,
“ as if he were a part of himself.”

The author
compares the
flux and re-
flux of the
sea with that
of a weight
upon a
horse's back.

Now, this, like many more commonly-received notions, is erroneous, if we consider rightly, although at first sight the thing seems otherwise. For if this were the case, the highest spring-tides would fall directly upon the full and change of the moon ; whereas they are found to happen two or three days after : and the reason is, the waters, when once put in motion, are, as a pendulum, made to rise or vibrate, as it were, farther, by means even of a less attractive force, than that impressed upon them exactly at the full and change. And this is termed *libration*.

This may seem an odd comparison to some sorts of folks : but if these would only think a little, they would find, that what I advance is fact, notwithstanding it seems so repugnant to common reason.

For, in reality, if a man were to keep his seat as the Captain mentions, what difference would there be between such manner of sitting upon a horse's back, and a pack of the same weight ? In my thoughts, the pack has the advantage ; and yet a horse will carry twenty four stone, which is a pack and half, of quick weight, such as that of a man, much farther in a day ; though I will not say what number of miles, notwithstanding the Captain has calculated so nicely as to fix the thing at ten ; I say, a horse will travel much farther with a man of twenty four stone, provided he keeps a proper seat upon his back, in the same given time, than he will with a pack of sixteen. And the reason is plain, *viz.* Every time the pack falls, it falls heavier than a man, in proportion to its weight, and does not yield to any one motion of the horse, unless what it is obliged to, by main force, as we say : whereas a man that eases his horse rightly, springs as his horse springs, and falls lightly as he falls, being, as it were, a part of himself, as the Captain expresses it ; and for this end, a man must
raise

raise and fall his right arm, if that is the arm he mostly uses, and balance himself like a rope-dancer with his pole.

A man should balance himself with his right arm, like a rope-dancer with his po'e.

To convince the Captain, let him ride a-hunting, and take his leaps without stirring his arm, or even leap on foot down a small precipice, and only keep his arms, &c. steady, and he'll be satisfied, to his cost, of the error.

It is observed, that there are some riders of running-horses, who move their legs as if they were spurring, and their arm as if they were whipping the horse through the course, and yet accounted very good riders too; witness *Stephen Jefferson*, the *Yorkshire* man, *Matcham Tims*, and others. But I have found by observation, that it is the way of running which the horse has, that gives liberty for the rider to move his arm, &c. or otherwise; that is, if a horse pulls fair, and makes his springs as if he knew his business, the rider may poise himself so as to keep close to his saddle; and, in every piece of different ground, instead of being erectly seated, (as though he were in a riding-school, according to the Captain's direction), he may lean his body this way or that, to ease his horse, and carry him (as we say) through his course. But enough of this at present; lest I become singular, and incur the opprobrious name of a *fool*, for thinking so contrary to the greater part of mankind, who, in my opinion, scarcely think at all. Only let me just mention, that I do not intend, by this way of reasoning, to induce people to ride so unseemly with their arms, &c. as some do. No; what I mean, is, that a light, proper motion of the body, or rather of the arm, to keep the body steadily seated, is most easy for a horse upon the road; and, in hunting or galloping, this motion is required to be greater, provided the horse's temper and way of running will bear with it.

Some jockies move their legs and arms much more on horseback than others, and yet perform well.

The greatest part of mankind scarcely think at all.

The best manner of keeping a seat upon a horse.

It is common, for young horses especially, to swell, and become *gourdy* (as the farriers call it) upon travelling; and the more so, if they interfere or cut.

Swelled legs.

The author tells us why a horse swells sooner behind than before upon travelling.

The reason a horse swells more behind than before, is, because his fore-parts stand higher in the stall, and the greatest stress therefore lies upon his hind legs. This will be found true, provided any one set the latter higher than the other, and more especially if the horse does not cut much behind; but if that is the case, the anguish indeed may make a difference so far, as that the experiment may not always hold, according as I have mentioned.

Best method to keep a horse's legs from swelling.

The best method to keep a horse's legs from swelling, or to fall them when swelled, is, to wash them well with warm water every time you bait; and it is much easier to prevent the inconveniency before it arrives, than remedy it when it is fixed.

I think soft warm water, such as will bear soap, as good of itself as any thing we can put in it, whether soap or any other ingredient; and by washing the legs thoroughly with this sort of water, something warmer than a human creature could bear the feet in it, the sand and dirt will be washed off, and the pores of the skin be at liberty for perspiration, which will prevent a stagnation of the blood and juices in these depending parts.

Secondly, A wide stall and proper bedding, together with good dressing and exercise, are the greatest helps towards keeping the limbs from swelling: for if these be duly taken care of, and the horse fed three times a-day, with about two quarts of corn and two handfuls of split beans in each feed, he will not require many drugs out of the apothecary's shop; seeing neither the simple story of the *horse-shoe*, *sickle*, or *hollow flint*, are able to drive away the *bitch-daughter*, or what we term the *incubus* or *night-mare*, so soon and effectually, as the due application of good exercise, together with proper feeding, and enough of it.

Horse-shoe, sickle, and hollow flint, the foolish notion of their driving away the bitch-daughter exploded.

I have often been surprised at the stupidity and ignorance of the vulgar, who believe their horses are rode out in the night by sprights and hobgoblins, because they find the creature all upon a damp sweat in his stall, as if he had been a journey;

ney; never considering, that if the poor horse did not sweat thus, and nature throw off the superfluities of the gross food he (through want of care in the owner) lives upon, that he would be soon in a much worse way, than sweating in the stable. But when the piece of *old iron* or *hollow stone* has been over his back a week or a fortnight in a string, and the horse better taken care of with respect to food and exercise, the silly *bitch-daughter* leaves him, although he is in a far better order for her riding than he was before. But I leave the reader to judge in what the remedy consisted; that is, whether it was the charm, or the other requisites I have spoken of, *viz.* good keeping and exercise, which performed the cure, if it may be said to be a cure: which I apprehend it may; seeing all creatures that are not at the proper standard of health, may be looked upon as diseased.

From what has been hinted, we may easily see how common it is for the bulk of mankind, I might as well have said for mankind in general, to attribute the performance of cures to wrong agents; nay, to agents, that, instead of being useful in the case, were much otherwise, by prolonging the crisis, or causing an imperfect one, where *nature*, or what we understand by such term, would have carried off the enemy in a much shorter space of time. And that this is the case too too often amongst the physicians of all ages, I am confident is too true: for as to those of the present, I can speak experimentally, *viz.* there is not one in an hundred, allowing that such person has all the knowledge necessary for forming a good physician; I say, allowing this, which I know is a very rare thing to be found, it is ten to one such person wants courage and resolution to tell his patient what he at the same time really thinks, *viz.* That nature will with time and patience conquer the distemper; and that with greater safety, than can otherwise be performed by a pompous train of *recipe's* and prescriptions. This is so uncommon, and so opposite to what we term *making a fortune in the world*, that

Men often attribute cures to wrong agents.

The author censures the faculty of physicians for pusillanimity; and affirms, that time and patience is often much better than a pompous train of prescriptions.

few,

few, very few of us, dare speak truth ; because unless we write, and that our hands are seen at the apothecary's, we may frequently fiddle for our fees ; the patient telling us, he could have recovered without a physician : *Ergo, si populus vult decipi, decipiat* ; therefore all the world is a cheat, (say some), and he is a fool that has not a hand in it.

I would only infer from this digression, that neither man nor brute creature should have medicines given, unless on absolute necessity ; and that it would be more beneficial for both, provided there were only half as many volumes writ against the undue, or too frequent use of drugs and medicines, as there are others in favour of the art ; the latter being generally stuffed full of an innumerable number of ill-contrived prescriptions, that, on due examination, contain ingredients no way conducive to the cure of the distemper for which they are set down. And although I know as many drugs, and have seen into the *materia medica* as much as most of my age, *sans se vanter*, as the *Frenchman* says ; yet I am well satisfied, that the practice of physic is, as well as that of the law, overburdened with splitting differences ; and that a clear head, rightly initiated, and improved by the several sciences of anatomy, both human and comparative, together with chymistry, natural and experimental philosophy, assisted by the help of numbers applied to proper purposes ; such a man as this, though he may not have the overflow of business with those who take pains to *whisper to Fame* what they would have her repeat with her hundred mouths : I say, though this be the case, such a man rests composed and satisfied, that the main thing required in a physician is, diligently to attend the efforts nature makes in order to dislodge the enemy, or what we term the *disease* ; and then to lend a helping hand, without overburdening the stomach with the various hotch potches in common use, and common form ; inasmuch that any apothecary's apprentice is able to write down the *formulae* made use of in this or that distemper, even to the *dernier* resort,
or

Physic as well as the law is overburdened with splitting causes.

or blister-plaister; as well as an attorney can draw an off-hand bill in any cause he has been employed in, from the *Capias* down to execution. No, no; there is not any mystery in knowing what is common practice: the thing is, to know common reason; a thing which few know, that are fond of receipts, as they call them, which have been handed down forsooth from generation to generation: and this, to be sure, adds exceedingly to the virtue of the composition; more especially if the receipt has a sanction of a Nobleman's name, such as the Duke of *Newcastle*, Lord *Orrery*, or the like.

The nicety is, to know the distemper, not the drugs in common use with farriers, &c.

I mention these Noblemen only as they were lovers of horses. But yet a Gentleman may love a horse very well, and not be rightly qualified to distinguish which is a well-contrived receipt, and which not; much less to judge of the distemper. Therefore, for this reason, candid reader, I would advise thee to shun common receipts as common nuisances; seeing, as far as I am able to give any reason for what I do, I really think that it would be more beneficial, either for man or beast, were they to swallow the bill instead of the pill, as the facetious *Butler* has expressed it in his *Hudibras*. But lest I should fly off too much from my subject-matter, by striving to effect what I think almost impossible, *viz.* setting mankind to rights, as we say, or correcting their foibles; therefore, for this reason, I must keep to the text, otherwise I shall exceed the common bounds of a manual.

The author advises us to shun common receipts as common nuisances.

Much better many times to swallow the bill instead of the pill.

I have said, that the best cure for swelled legs, is proper food and exercise, a wide stall, clean bedding, and good dressing. I say, good dressing: but there are few grooms who dress a horse thoroughly as he requires; rather chusing to give him the *ostler's scrub*, as we call it, than to work him over till his skin is of a glowing warmth, according to the manner that a careful and diligent keeper would do, who expects the horse to run strongly through his course, or hunt to his master's expectation.

Good dressing should not be neglected.

There is scarce any thing more beneficial and salutary Friction, or

rubbing the flesh, very conducive to health.

A sedentary life and obstructed perspiration the cause of many diseases.

The *materia perspirabilis* equal in weight to all the other secretions.

Good dressing, proper exercise, and regularly plentiful feeding, is the best physic.

Quantity of oats, &c. for a road-horse per day.

lutory to preserve or restore health, either in human or brute creatures, than what we call *friction*.

I could enumerate a great many chronical and very obstinate distempers in the first, wherein friction, by the help of a fish-brush, flannel, or the like, might truly be said to have the greatest share in the cure. And were this sort of exercise more in use with mankind, we should not so often be called upon in our way, to remove or alleviate the many different excruciating pains afflicting the species; and which I may safely say, frequently proceed from a sedentary life, and obstructed perspiration.

It is found by the nicest calculation, that insensible perspiration, I would say, the *materia perspirabilis*, that goes off through the pores of the skin in human bodies, insensibly, in a day and night, is equal in weight to all the other secretions, as stool, urine, &c. This at first sight may seem strange, but it is experimentally true. And as in man, so in horses, the retention of such matter, whether by a too sedentary way of living, or from a constipation or sudden closing of the pores, occasioned from the effect of external air; I say, it is all the same; and innumerable evils will ensue, such as fevers, head-achs, coughs, griping of the guts, &c. Therefore, to prevent diseases, and preserve health, let your horse be well curried, brushed, and wiped down with a cloth, morning, noon, and night; and this will keep him in order for business, without the help of drugs, provided he is duly exercised, and fed with a liberal hand, with respect to oats, beans, &c.

When I am speaking of a liberal hand in feeding, it may not be improper to hint at the quantity of oats a man should allow his horse for this or that business; which I shall briefly do in the following manner, *viz.*

To a horse of size that has a good appetite, and travels much, about six quarts of clean oats, half a pint of split beans, and a good handful of wheat mixed together, is sufficient for the day; but a hunter

hunter of size may require the like feed with a Ditto for a galloping horse, *viz.* about half a Winchester of hunter. oats, a quart of beans, and three handfuls of wheat, mixed and divided into three equal feeds.

I have had horses of size, would, some of them, A horse that eat more than half a bushel of oats, &c. a-day; eats little, and yet I did not find that these horses performed may do as better than others, which ate four quarts less. So much service that, in the main, there are horses whose constitu- as one that tions may be strong and hardy, although such eats more. horses eat sparingly, and without any shew of a voracious appetite.

What I have said with respect to the quantity Owner of a of oats necessary for a sized horse, may be a suf- horse, who ficient guide to any man, what should be allowed allows scanty those of fourteen hands or under. Therefore I feed, the au- shall conclude the paragraph with a seasonable thor tells us, *re-* is rid by the *miniscor*, *viz.* He who will not allow his horse the bitch-daugh- quantity of oats, &c. that I have mentioned, ter in the day, should ride slowly and short stages, otherwise it is as his horse an even wager such horse will be rid by the same is at night. *bitch-daughter* in the night, which rides the owner by day.

As the young traveller may expect some directi- Watering ons about watering a horse on the road, I shall on the road. give a short admonition on that head, *viz.* When a horse travels, he perspires much, especially in hot weather; and may therefore be allowed to drink a little now and then, as opportunity offers, which will refresh him: but never let him drink much at a time; for if you suffer him to drink his fill, he will be dull and sluggish afterwards, besides the harm he may receive if very hot. But when you come near, that is, within a mile and half, or two miles of the place you intend to bait at, be it noon or night, he may drink more freely, going a moderate trot afterwards; for by this means the water will be well warmed in his belly, and he will go in cool. Yet observe, if there be not any water on the road, never to suffer your horse to be led to water, or wash his heels, after you are arrived at your inn; but let him have water made lukewarm, after he has

has stood some time in the stable; for much mischief has been done by imprudent riders, that have travelled hard, and let their horses drink as much as they would, just at going into the town or inn where they intended to lie.

Scratches.

The author blames mankind for neglecting the study of the human mechanism, &c.

All animals whatever are full of humours, strictly speaking.

An account of the blood and humours of animals.

Once more, let it be observed, that it is much more easy to prevent than cure diseases; so that if a horse be well taken care of by a skilful groom, who knows better how to handle a comb and a brush, than to give a drench, his heels will not be in much danger: and therefore I cannot help laughing at the ignorance and stupidity of those fellows, who, when a horse happens to have the *scratches* or cracks in his heels, treated of at p. 47. immediately cry out, The horse is full of humours, and that, to be sure, these are falling down. O monstrous stupidity in mankind, who neglect even the knowledge of the human mechanism! therefore much more so may they pass over an inquiry into the structure of brutes. But, as I have before hinted, *viz.* to talk sense would be talking nonsense, with the generality of mankind. However, I cannot help in this place asserting, that all horses, whether sound and well, or sick and diseased, are full of humours; and farther too, that such humours never fall down, strictly speaking. Although it is the common notion, and notwithstanding I see the practical farrier, *well experienced* (so called) groom, and demi-doctor, lift up all their hands; yet I can easily make my assertion as plain, as that two and two make four; which I shall endeavour to do in as few words as possible: and if I succeed, I hope people's ears will not be deafened with nonsense, so much as they have been with respect to those particulars. Therefore, first, I say,

All animals consist of solids and fluids. The blood is produced from the chyle, and is the principal fluid of the body; from which the gall, pancreatic juice, or liquor separated by the *sweet-bread*, together with all the rest, are secreted. And it is also observable, that the blood, in all kinds of animals, whether men, quadrupeds, fishes, volatiles, or

or reptiles, is the same; and that it consists of these three parts, *viz.* First, of an almost insipid water, with a very little scent; which being exposed to the fire, flies off in vapours, yielding a fetid odour.

The adepts in chymistry have formerly asserted, that the blood contains spirit, as well as salt. But this reasoning is refuted, since a much better philosophy took place; and discovered to us, that spirits dissolve oils, not salts; and that no spirit is produced, unless by fermentation; such as the inflammable spirit, or by putrefaction: neither of which *phænomena* appear in the blood of a healthy subject; although it is as common as can be, to say the blood is in a ferment. Fermentation, no such thing in the blood of a living animal.

Secondly, of that part which we term the *serum* of the blood. This *serum* is not red in its natural state, but transparent; and it is yellowish when disturbed by any disease. And though I have asserted, that there is no spirit, strictly speaking, in the blood of animals; yet the *serum* of it resists cold wonderfully; for it is not easily congealed by the frigorific power: yet, by being exposed to heat, hardens like the white of an egg; the more watry part, as before spoken of, flying away. Serum of the blood, what.

Thirdly, The blood consists of that part which gives a redness to the whole; and which is rendered by the power of heat, as well as cold, into a red, firm, tenacious mass, called by the Latins *insula*. Insula in the blood, what.

If the blood taken away from any animal be suffered to rest in a vessel for some time, first the watry part flies off, as being the most subtil, and then the *serum* is separated; and the more plentifully this is done, the *insula* becomes the smaller; and in three or four days the red part quite disappears, being turned into *serum* also; and that *serum*, if the blood be drawn from a diseased animal, is often of a black, yellowish, or other unnatural colour. Serum, the colour of it in a diseased animal.

These *phænomena* may be observed with the naked eye: but by the assistance of microscopes we farther discover the spherical particles swimming in a limpid fluid; which, in the greater vessels, retain their

spherical figure, and appear red; but towards the narrow parts of the vessels, they become oval, and turn from redness to yellowness.

Nervous
juice and
subtil lymph
in animals,
how and in
what part of
the blood-
vessels pro-
duced.

There are many more observations made upon the blood of animals by the help of glasses, which I cannot particularly enumerate by reason of my intended brevity; such as, that nice discovery, whereby we discern each globule of blood, consisting of six small ones, and each of these of six other, and so on; which being separated, the red colour immediately vanishes. And that this happens in the smallest vessels, is plain; because it is here the most subtil lymph and nervous juice are produced. I say, these, and many more discoveries, have been made by glasses far beyond the reach of the naked eye.

These things being premised, it remains that I shew in what consists the fluidity of the blood. And, *first*, I say,

Fluidity of
the blood
not occasion-
ed through
heat, as ma-
ny imagine.

The blood's fluidity does not arise from heat; although I believe most of my readers may be of another opinion; seeing they judge more from the outward senses, than from any true philosophy. Therefore, because they every day see heat resolve and melt down solid substances, and cause them to flow, they conclude immediately, that the blood is preserved in its fluid state by the power of heat; whereas heat thickens the extravasated blood. And besides this, it is fluid in fishes, whose bodies are cold; and yet the blood of these grows grumous, and coagulates, when extravasated, or taken out of

The greatest
coagulations
of the blood
happen in the
largest ves-
sels.

the vessels, no less than human blood. Hence the cause preserving the blood fluid, is not any thing peculiar to the blood: for if it arose from the nature of the blood, its fluidity would be greatest in the largest vessels; but in them the fluidity is less than the motion; for it is here that the greatest coagulations are wont to happen, as is manifest in the veins of carcases.

The action
of the solids
upon the
blood are the

Therefore the action of the solids, through which the blood flows, is the cause of its fluidity: and for such reason, when the action

on of the solids ceases, the motion also of the blood ceases. cause of its fluidity.

This is made more plain by an experiment with a torpid or benumbed frog or bat, viewed through a microscope before a fire: for the blood will not be dissolved by the heat, till the heart begins to contract and dilate; and then indeed, after several pulsations, it will recover its fluidity. Therefore hence we must conclude, that heat is a concurrent cause of the motion of the blood, but not the primary; by reason, when the action of the solids ceases, the motion and heat cease also. Now, *secondly*, as to what the common people call *humours*: Experiment.
Heat only the concurrent cause of the motion of the blood.

I think I may save myself the trouble of a chymical analysis of the blood, in order to prove, that it is composed of (what we of the profession call) *humours*; by only hinting to the reader, that diseases brought on by a fault in either the solids or fluids of animals, is the reason why those humours (constituting the latter) are converted from their natural state, and turned to a putrescent disposition. Therefore, in general, we may with as great propriety of speech say, the blood and humours are in a good and healthful state, as that they are in a sickly and morbid one. Action of the solids when it ceases.
The motion of the blood, and also its heat, vanish.
The author proves, that the blood and juices are no other than what the physicians term humours.

This doctrine, I must own, will seem strange to those people who are so strongly attached to the notion of humours falling down to the limbs of either man or horse. Yet if they would only consider this, *viz.* that it is very possible to make a horse's legs swell, by preventing him from lying down a few days and nights; and that *fluids press according to their perpendicular altitude, not according to their quantity.* And therefore when a horse or other animal is upon its legs, the sides of the containing vessels, through which the blood, &c. flows, are more distended, and upon the stretch; and for this reason, there is a sort of tension, such as is, in some degree, the forerunner of pain. Experiment.
All fluids press the containing vessels according to their perpendicular altitude, not according to their quantity.

Add to this the tendency to stagnation, and consequently putrefaction, occasioned through the blood's Reason why a horse's legs swell.

blood's circulating so slowly in the extreme parts when kept in this posture.

Indeed there is a proper number of valves, which may be compared to leather flaps in the spear-boxes of pumps. These are, by nature, formed in the veins of the legs, and other flexible members, in order to hinder their return, or rather to take off from the pressure of the venal blood against the succeeding arterial. And if this was not so ordered by the almighty architect, the sides of the veins, when in a perpendicular situation, as well as those of the arteries, would be much more upon the stretch than they otherwise are: for a greater force is required to raise a fluid in a perpendicular than a diagonal line; and such force must be proportional; that is, not according to the quantity, but according to the elevation such fluid is in. For the nearer any creature approaches to a horizontal posture, (or lying down, as we call it), the less force is required in the heart, &c. to drive the blood round the body in circulation. This any person of ordinary capacity may understand, provided he only looks upon those sort of barometers or weather-glasses, where the quick-silver is contained in a kind of diagonal tube. These are now grown very common in every town, and are contrived on purpose to shew the least variation of the weight of the atmosphere: for the mercury or quick-silver will rise and fall several inches more in these, than in the perpendicular sort; because it does not require the same degree of weight or elasticity in the air, to drive forward the fluids in this situation, as it would do in a perpendicular.

The operation or effect of the air upon the quick-silver in weather-glasses, compared with the blood in the vessels of animals.

A horse not subject to faint on being bled; and why.

This doctrine might be farther illustrated, by shewing the reason of swooning or fainting-fits incident to human bodies on the return of the blood, as it is called, when a person has been bled in the arm, &c. and why a horse is not subject to the like leipothymies; and again, why some men faint, and others not, on these occasions: As, first, That a horse is not so apt to be sick on bleeding; because his body, and consequently most of the large blood-vessels,

vessels, are horizontally reclined : whereas man is a creature *sidera vultus*, as *Ovid* styles him, erect ; and therefore more liable to faint on bleeding ; because the ascending trunk of the *aorta*, or great artery, arising out of the left ventricle of the heart, which supplies all the parts above the heart with nourishment : I say, because the blood runs out at the orifice in the arm faster than the heart is well supplied by the *vena cava ascendens* and *descendens*, which meets in the right auricle of the heart, therefore a man is apt to faint, except he be bled upon a bed or couch ; in which posture he will lose a great deal more blood without swooning, than in an erect situation. And the nearest way to bring a person to rights, when he begins to faint, is laying him down as quick as possible, and continuing him so for half an hour. This, and this alone, will cure fainting-fits sooner than all the *sal-volatile drops*, *spirits of hartshorn*, &c. made use of for such purposes.

A man will lose more blood upon a bed or couch without being sick, than in an upright posture, and why.

The reason why some folks swoon away upon being bled, and others not, proceeds, as I apprehend, from the force of the heart in the first not being sufficiently strong, or not so strong, in proportion to the body, as that of the other : but, in the main, I think the reason of this difference is not quite discoverable ; therefore we must resolve it into what we term the *idiosyncrasy*, or peculiar temperament and disposition of some bodies with respect to others.

Idiosyncrasy in animals, what.

I remember I had a long literary dispute with the late Dr. *Turner* of *Devonshire-square*, in *London*, a man of worth in the profession, whose greatest foible, in my humble opinion, was his decrying all mechanical and mathematical reasoning, as vain and useless with respect to the practice of physic : I say, I had a long dispute with this otherwise ingenious and well-experienced practitioner, about the qualifications of our *English Hippocrates*, viz. *Sydenham* ; who, by experience, knew, that his patients would lose much more blood upon a bed or couch, than in an erect posture ; yet he could give no rea-

The late Dr. *Turner* of *London*, and the famous *Sydenham*, mentioned.

son for the thing : for I am sorry to say it, *Sydenham* was but a poor philosopher, though he was born a physician.

My allegation was, That had Dr. *Sydenham* known the true reason of several of the *phænomena* he observed in nature, he would not have been a whit the worse man for such knowledge, but rather a better ; and that his strong natural capacity for our business, would, with such help, have enabled him to judge more to the purpose : whereas he only leaves us the plain history of the diseases he treats upon. This, I say, was our topic. But Dr. *Turner* happened to die before our dispute was quite ended ; therefore I shall not now attack so unequal a foe, who cannot answer for himself. But I believe the reader (I mean the intelligent reader) will be satisfied from what I have said, that as to the word *humours*, and that such humours fall down upon the limbs, as is the common phrase, is not a proper way of speaking.

To say humours fall down to the limbs, is not a proper way of speaking.

The profession in general censured.

I am sure a mechanician, who understood the structure of animal bodies, if he had the least smattering in experimental natural philosophy, would laugh to hear such nonsense every day in the mouths of the vulgar ; nay, even in the mouths of the learned graduates, who imagine they have all the knowledge in the world : whereas, would they only drink deeper, they would find, that notwithstanding of the university, or number of years, can make a true physician, without a proper head-piece, and the materials necessary for such a work. But I must desist, lest I should shew, that most of the brotherhood are very deficient in two material branches of the profession, *viz.* chymistry, (or experimental natural philosophy), and pharmacy.

Many distempers cured.

As swelled legs in horses is one of their most common grievances, I have been more copious upon the subject than the nature of the thing can well bear, considering this treatise is intended for the pocket. However, I must yet observe farther, that there are many distempers, both in human and brute creatures, that are cured, or at least might be so,

so, solely by keeping the body in a proper situation or posture. And it is remarkable enough, what I have often observed, *viz.* that old-running sores or ulcers of the lower limbs, frequently afflicting the female sex in particular, are often cured by those common pains or sicknesses which oblige patients to keep their beds for a considerable time; and this, through the perpendicular pressure of the fluids in the vessels, being in some, I might have said in a great measure, taken off by the reclining posture before spoken of. Therefore, as to humours falling down, it is an unintelligible piece of jargon, understood by no body, except such people who deal in fustian, and nothing else.

nable by a proper posture of the body.

Humours falling down, a piece of nonsense.

I must indeed acknowledge, that some horses are more apt by far to swell in the legs than others; and that there are cases, where a horse may be said to be full of noxious humours, as well as others, where that creature may be pronounced replete with balsamic blood, &c. Yet, if I was not running the risk of talking like an apothecary, *viz.* foreign to common understandings and capacities, I should, instead of saying a horse is full of humours, say, his solids and fluids are disproportionate; which, in effect, is saying he is diseased: for health is no other than a due proportion maintained between the mover and the moved, *viz.* the solids and fluids of animal bodies. And indeed it is possible, to abuse a horse taken up from grass in good order to hard meat, to that degree, that his legs will swell; and it is then his ignorant owner cries out, he is full of humours, and that the usage he had, only set them more afloat. But this is a poor way of arguing, not worth my while further to refute, seeing the absurdity of it is pointed out by what has gone before. And therefore I say,

Health defined.

A vulgar error exploded.

When a horse's legs swell, and that they will not yield to good keeping, clean dressing, a wide stall, &c. without the help of medicines, the case is bad. And for this reason, that I may not be quite alone, by being accounted an author that treats upon diseases and their cures, without setting down

down

down any *formulae* of prescription, I must tell the reader, that a proper purge, such as the following, may be of service, *viz.*

A purge for
a horse with
swelled legs.

“ Take one ounce of common aloes, three
“ drachms of species hieræ picræ, one drachm of
“ diagridium, half an ounce of diapente, one hun-
“ dred drops of oil of aniseed, and as much
“ treacle as will make it into a stiff ball; to be
“ rolled in liquorish powder, or flower of brim-
“ stone, and given the horse in the common way;
“ working it off with warm water and oat-meal,
“ when the medicine begins to operate.”

All resinous
purges are of
a griping
quality, and
why.

The above dose may be enlarged or diminished, according to a horse's age, strength, &c. I mean with respect to the aloes and diagridium; though the latter of these is not proper to be given, I think, above the quantity of two drachms, it is of such a griping nature; as indeed all resinous purges are; such as, resin of jallop, scammony, and the like. For as the particles of this tribe of purgatives are apt to adhere to the villous coat of the guts, and there cause intolerable vellications and gripings, even to such a degree, that I have observed the guts of horses killed by unskilful farriers, who deal in drugs they know not the danger of: I say, I have seen the guts of such horses, together with part of the stomach, in some sort mortified, or at least much disposed to gangrenate. But I am of opinion, the quantity of diagridium, or scammony rosted in a quince, which is so called, as here ordered, is not too great; for the farriers often give thrice the weight for a dose along with the aloes, &c.

The au-
thor's obser-
vation upon
some horses
killed with
purges.

Physicians
willingly use
resinous pur-
ges, and
why.

The reason why we would willingly be dabbling with resinous purgatives, such as is the diagridium, resin of jallop, and scammony, together with the juices of plants, which operate in the same manner, more especially that of the wild cucumber, called *elaterium*, and that too in so small a quantity as a grain to a full-aged person, and eight grains to a horse; I might also have mentioned *gamboge*, that gum-resin which is imported from the *East-Indies*, and which flows from two different plants, where-
of

of we have no very good intelligence : I say, we would willingly be dabbling with these sort of purges, because they are known to stimulate the glands of the guts much more than others ; whereby they cause a contraction, to that degree, that the ferous or watry humours are thrown off, as it were, by so many sponges squeezed. But, on the other hand, although resinous purges may be ventured upon in mankind, where there is a redundancy of watry humours, as in dropical cases of several sorts ; I say, though they may be of use here, yet they are not so safe for horses, by reason the length of their alimentary tube, viz. from the upper orifice of the paunch to the fundament, is above thirty five yards in length, generally speaking ; and therefore the resinous particles are more likely to adhere to the foldings of the guts, and cause intolerable gripings, and now and then death itself without mercy.

Resinous purges are dangerous, and why.

I might, since I have seemingly begun, enter into a long detail of the different kinds of purging medicines, and shew in what particulars their purgative quality consists. But this account would be too long and tedious at present ; though I cannot help observing, that the powers of medicines, or true *modus operandi*, are not sufficiently understood by the greatest part of those Gentlemen who pretend to the practice of physick, notwithstanding such knowledge ought to be the grand guide and director.

Powers of medicines understood by few.

It is possible, by superpurgation from one dose, or by giving a horse too many doses of drastic or strong purges, so to weaken the crasis of his blood and juices, as that his limbs will swell : therefore I would have my readers industriously avoid those farriers who would be continually tossing purges into weak lean horses ; which they will tell you are full of humours, and therefore require such management.

A horse's limbs may swell from superpurgations, or over purging.

A horse that is lean and weak, should only be once or twice purged with the following composition, and afterwards take strengthening medicines to restore his fibres to their natural tone and elasticity.

A lean horse should be seldom purged.

The purge I recommend in such case, is this, viz.

“ Take

A purge for
a lean horse.

“ Take of Succotrine aloes (that comes in skins
to us from *Zocotra*, an island in the streights of
Babel-Mandel, which will cost you about 8 *d.* an
ounce) one ounce and half; extract of cassia,
one ounce; of fena in powder, three drachms;
cinnamon, cloves, nutmegs, and galengal root
powdered, of each two drachms; mix, and with
as much syrup of roses-solutive as is necessary,
beat the whole into a stiff mass, to be formed into
two balls; which are to be given the horse any
morning, washing them down with a little warm
ale or wine, keeping him from his meat half a
day at least.”

Aloes, the
different
sorts of it.

There are three sorts of aloes, *viz.* the *hepatic* or
liver aloes; the *caballine* or horse aloes, brought to
us from *Barbadoes* in gourds; and that sort above-
mentioned, from the island of *Zocotra*; which is
much the best sort, although it does not operate in
so small a quantity as the others. Yet it is seldom
asked for, because it bears a price four times as
high as the common sorts.

If your horse is strong, and full of flesh, and that
he really requires purging, he may, in such case,
bear the common aloes and other ingredients, as
under.

Another
purge more
strong than
the former.

“ Take of common aloes, one ounce; dia-
pente, two drachms; powder called diasena,
half an ounce; salt of tartar, two drachms; and
syrup of buckthorn, as much as is sufficient to
make the whole into a stiff mass, to form into
two balls, to be given as before directed; rolling
them up in powdered ginger.”

Caution a-
gainst giving
a second
purge when
the first does
not operate.

It may so fall out, that the above dose may be
too little; and in such case it must be made stronger,
by the addition of more aloes, and powder of diasena.
But let me caution all men not to give a second
dose directly, when the first does not happen to
purge the horse; for by this indiscretion many are
killed; and it is a general rule in our practice, *viz.*
Always to keep under the common dose of any me-
dicine, till you are thoroughly acquainted with the
temperament and constitution of the creature you
have

We ought to
give rather
an under
than an over
dose.

have to deal with : for none, I believe, are killed by an under-dose of a proper medicine, though many, I dare say, are hurried out of the world by an over-dose, before the physician (if I must call him such) is apprised how and in what manner his patient has been usually affected by the same kind of medicine he is going to swallow down : and therefore it is no bad question, to ask any man you buy a horse from, whether such horse has ever been purged, and what was the dose, and how he was affected by it ? But if this cannot be known, we must be sure to keep under, rather than over ; and, as it were, grope out his constitution with respect to purging, &c.

As the grease is mostly occasioned by carelessness of the keeper, through suffering the scratches to grow to too great a height, I should indeed have mentioned the latter distemper first ; seeing, if you prevent or cure the scratches, you have no occasion for any directions about the grease. However, I hope that what I have said, will be serviceable to the reader, provided he is not over fond of this or that nonsensical receipt cried up for the cure of the grease.

The scratches are a painful distemper, incident to horses ; and are, in many respects, agreeable to what we term *kibed heels* in human bodies : and yet, though these disorders give mankind much trouble, they are easily to be cured, provided people would only hearken to reason, and not run away with that unaccountably foolish notion of the vulgar, who are still, and upon all occasions will be crying out, that the humours are falling down, &c.

As I have hinted above, I am now again to repeat it, viz. That the most common cause of the grease and scratches is carelessness and nastiness : for unless the blood be kept in a benign and balsamic state, by proper exercise and clean sweet feeding, that fluid (from which all the humours of the animal body are derived) must of consequence become depraved and languid. And this mischief is still increased by the lazy careless groom ; such a one I mean who is so much afraid of wind getting into his

The grease and scratches.

Compared to kibed heels in human bodies.

The cause of the grease and scratches.

The author's description of a lazy groom

A servant that goes dirty and nasty himself, generally keeps his stable, &c. in the same pickle.

Danger of suffering a horse to rest all night without dressing after he has been hard rid.

A violent surfeit partakes of most diseases.

Scratches differ from the grease in some particulars.

The best posture of body during the cure of wounds.

The author censures mankind for being careless, and walking about upon the limb after receiving a wound or bruise.

The cure of a wound often costs us a larger sum through our neglect, and why.

his stomach, that he dares not go out with his horse upon his morning-exercise, before he has steeled himself with a mug of strong beer and a toast; or, in other words, one who will take care of himself before he takes care of his horse.

Such a groom as this will always have his stable perfumed with the nauseous effluvia, that are easily enough perceptible on such occasions, even to vulgar noses; and his livery-cloaths are generally in the same pickle with his horses, *viz.* very dirty. But to the point.

As exercise ventilates the blood; so, no doubt, keeping the skin clean and smooth, is one great assistant towards an easy perspiration through the pores: for if we suffer our horses, after hard riding, to lie with the sweat baked over them, (as the saying is), we run the risk of a violent surfeit; which is, in fact, running the risk of most of the distempers incident to either human or brute creatures.

The scratches differ from the grease in some respects, *viz.* in that the first require rest, a large stall, and a proper ointment; whereas the grease (without the scratches) is better after moderate riding. And therefore I must premise one thing, which, as a golden rule, ought always to be kept in mind by every surgeon and farrier, and indeed by all mankind. The thing is this, *viz.* Motion hinders union in all kinds of wounds, and a horizontal posture of the body or limb wounded, is much preferable to a depending one; yet altho' daily experience teaches this great truth, mankind are so heedlessly stupid, that they overlook the thing, even to such a degree as to cost themselves many pounds, when the same number of pence would have performed a cure, provided the animal œconomy had been understood, even in a minute degree, by the patient.

What I would be at is this, *viz.* A wound upon any of the joints or lip in human bodies, requires much more patience and care to perform a cure, than when such wound happens to a part of the body not so frequently in motion: for motion

(as

(as I have before hinted) hinders union. And,

It is just the same in horses, when any wound or sore is situate upon the back part of the fetlock, the place where the grease and scratches happen : for, these parts being mostly in motion, sores upon them are difficultly healed, and more especially as they are depending parts.

Wounds upon the joints most difficult to cure, and why.

This doctrine of motion and situation of body, with respect to the cure of wounds, or old-running sores, is very little attended to ; nay, even many, who, one would imagine, should have better notions of mechanic principles, are so forgetful of themselves, that they place their bodies in a quite different posture than that which the cure of the disease absolutely requires. For instance, in the piles, or what the surgeons style the hæmorrhoids, you shall find the otherwise intelligent patient sitting erect, groaning and crying out in the utmost agonies, from the pungent pain occasioned by the pressure of the blood and humours on the sides and extremities of the hæmorrhoidal veins, spread upon the *sphincter ani* : whereas would such person only place himself horizontally on a bed or couch, (I mean before the blood in those vessels is turned too much to corruption) ; I say, such posture would carry off the inflammation without any other method. And the reason is plain why horses and other prone animals never have the piles, *viz.* from the situation of their bodies, which hinders any extraordinary pressure of the blood upon the extremities of the hæmorrhoidal veins ; and which extremities, in all animals, both human and brute, are destitute of that resistance which is in common with the other blood-vessels of the body. Add to this, there are no valves in the pile-veins ; which is another reason why a horizontal posture of the body is necessary, when there happens to be too great a pressure of the blood, and an inflammation upon the part.

The author blames mankind for neglecting the study of the mechanic powers.

An upright or erect posture, bad in the cure of the piles, &c.

The reason why horses never are troubled with the piles, &c.

No valves in the pile-veins.

I know, that the common saying is, *A hard chair or seat is best for the cure of the piles.* But it is a vulgar error amongst many more ; seeing that although a hard chair may make a resistance against

A common saying proved to be a vulgar error.

Giving ease, and performing a cure, are two different things.

If a horse will not lie down, he should be forced, or else turned out in the day.

Cold air a great repellent; and therefore it is good to turn a horse out for the cure of the scratches.

Cure of the scratches performed by turning a horse out, and the mechanical reason assigned for it.

the ends of the distended vessels, yet that is no argument why it should cure the piles; because giving ease, and performing a cure, are two different things; and we are assured, that ease may be procured in many distempers by medicines that are quite opposite to the intention of cure. However, I will so far agree in the thing, as to acknowledge pressure upon the ends of the distended pile-veins, is very proper to hinder the forming an abscess, (or gathering, as it is vulgarly called), provided the patient will use it when he is in bed, or on a couch, and before any matter or corruption is formed.

From the foregoing doctrine, the reader may frame a right judgment, how and in what situation a horse should be mostly kept that has the grease or scratches, or wounds or swellings upon the legs, &c. and that although a horse that has the grease or scratches, will not lie down as he ought, yet he should either be forced to it, (as by the method, p. 62.), or turned out in the day-time, and his body covered with a cloth.

It will seem to some, that I have contradicted myself in the last paragraph; because a while ago I have laid it down as a general rule, That motion hinders the uniting of wounds. But I beg leave to consider, that when a horse is turned out from a warm stable into a field, the coldness of the air is a grand repellent, and causes a proper contraction of the fibres of the muscular parts, &c. insomuch that there is a stop put to an influx of humours, as we call it, and thereby the threatening inflammation and stagnation of the blood and juices are prevented.

Moreover, we find, that turning a horse out that has the scratches, provided his heels be washed well with warm water, (not with dish-wash), and anointed well with a proper ointment, such as the following, is the most speedy cure; because such horse just uses as much motion as is necessary to help forward the stagnating blood and humours about his heels: and this, together with the coldness of the circumambient air, performs a cure, by tying up the ends of the secretory and excretory ducts in the skin,

skin, and thereby hindering that nauseous discharge, so offensive in the stables of the obstinately ignorant and idle groom.

The ointment for the scratches, which I just now hinted at, is this, *viz.*

“ Take of white ointment two ounces, Flanders
“ oil of bays and quicksilver, each half an ounce ;
“ stir these well together, or rather melt the white
“ ointment a little ; then stir in the oil of bays,
“ and lastly the quicksilver ; and keep stirring till all
“ be so cold, as that the last ingredient cannot fall
“ down to the bottom ; which is one main thing to
“ be observed in mixing quicksilver with any oint-
“ ment whatsoever.”

Ointment
for the
scratches.

Let this ointment be applied when the hair is well clipped away from about the sores, both before and after the horse is travelled or exercised. But be careful always to have his legs washed clean with pretty warm water, and the part dried well, before the ointment be used.

Capt. Burdon, in his *Pocket-farrier*, orders a ball of Æthiops mineral, balsam of sulphur, with oil of turpentine, diapente, aniseeds, and honey, for the cure of the scratches. But I can see no right reason for any inward medicines ; although the vulgar and unthinking mortal will imagine, that the blood and juices, in such cases, must be contaminated, because the outward senses are so affected with the sight and smell of the grease and scratches. However, the following ball, given to the quantity of about an ounce in a morning before exercise and watering, is exceeding good to prevent or cure most diseases in horses, where there is not much of a feverish heat attending.

Capt. Bur-
don's ball
for the
scratches
censured.
People fre-
quently judge
erroneously,
by relying
upon the out-
ward senses
too much.
Most diseases
cured by the
following
ball.

“ Take aniseed and caraway-feed finely pow-
“ ed, of each one ounce ; Greater Cardamum seed,
“ half an ounce ; flour of brimstone, two ounces ;
“ turmeric in fine powder, one ounce ; saffron,
“ two drachms ; sugar-candy, four ounces ; Spanish
“ juice dissolved in hyssop-water, two ounces ; oil
“ of aniseed, half an ounce ; liquorish-powder, one
“ ounce and half ; wheat-flour, as much as is

Cordial-ball.

“ sufficient

“ sufficient to make all into a stiff paste; and when
 “ the whole has been well beaten in a mortar, keep
 “ it for use in a bladder tied.”

Turning out
 better than
 any medi-
 cine for the
 cure of the
 grease or
 scratches.

What I just now said about inward medicines not being necessary, I would have the reader construe, that such things are not necessary, merely when a horse has the scratches; but if he has the grease, a couple of purges and a course of the Æthiops mineral (*p.* 102.) may be necessary. Yet, when all is done and said, I durst undertake to cure the grease or scratches sooner, by proper turning out, good feeding, and clean dressing, and letting the horse have a double stall to ease himself, than by any other method whatsoever. And therefore it is a gross piece of stupidity, and want of knowledge of the true nature of the animal machine, to assert, that either mankind or brutes require purging, or courses of physic, in all cases where there may appear a discharge of humours.

Leprosy and
 scurvy men-
 tioned.

All I would say, is this, *viz.* There are many distempers at the very extremities of the lymphatic vessels, and therefore styled skinny distempers, which do not require, I mean, not absolutely require, inward medicines; and amongst these some kind of leprosy and scurvies in men, as well as the scratches, &c. in horses. And this I know from experience as well as reason: for I have cured some confirmed leprosy without any medicine inwardly administered. And as to drying up hot sharp humours affecting the legs, or other parts of human bodies, without any inconveniency accruing afterwards, and without any thing besides a topical application, I think he is but a poor physician or surgeon that will not subscribe with me. Therefore as to the humour causing the scratches falling upon any other part of the horse's body, as his eyes, lungs, &c. when the scratches are cured without purging, or other inward administration, I say it is all a mere jest, and child of ignorance; fit only to amuse the vulgar, and pick their pockets.

The hu-
 mour falling
 upon the
 lungs, &c.
 when the
 scratches are
 cured, a
 mere jest.

By this time I think I have discoursed sufficiently upon the subject of the grease and scratches, those

two common and troublesome distempers in horses ; and therefore I shall beg leave to proceed to an account of the gravel, or prick in the foot, an accident frequently happening on a journey.

It frequently happens, I say, that horses are gravelled upon the road by an unskilful smith driving a nail either into the quick, or near a vein, (as the farriers term it) ; and when this so falls out, the gravel, or sandy matter in the roads, works up along the nail-hole, till it arrives at the quick, and then it makes the horse lame. This is the common definition of the gravel. But I apprehend, that if a horse was pricked, his foot would inflame and fester by the nail sticking in the foot, though no gravel or dirt should get in at the nail-hole ; because we are not acquainted with any metal or substance that will lie in an animal body without corruption, except gold or lead ; neither will any extraneous body (that I am acquainted with), as gravel, wood, or the like, excepting the two metals mentioned, remain in an animal body amongst the blood-vessels without corruption. But lest people should be carried away by false notions with respect to ripening or drawing applications, I must beg leave to speak a word or two in plain *English* upon the subject ; from which short hint, I doubt not but the intelligent reader will, in some degree, benefit himself.

Gravelled or pricked.

No metal except gold or lead will lie in an animal body without corruption.

Ripeners (as I remember explained in the physick schools at *Leyden*, by the late learned and never-to-be-forgotten Professor *Boerhaave*) are “ those things which so dissolve what is to be suppurated, that the whole matter gathers into one place, without any division or separation made by cells, to the end that an orifice being made, the whole suppurated matter may be at once expelled.”

Drawing or ripening medicines, which are so termed.

Farthermore, as those parts of an animal to be suppurated or ripened, are nothing more than half-broken solids and stagnating liquids, a suppurator and a ripener are synonymous terms. However, I would hint one thing material, *viz.* That the longer the matter to be suppurated remains close, and free from the air, the easier it is concocted ; and there-

fore the greatest care should be taken, that all the indurated or hard parts become soft quite round, before the tumour be opened: for when once that is done, what was not suppurated before, can hardly be dissolved, or brought to suppuration afterwards.

A mechanical account of ripening medicines.

A ripener therefore is an application consisting of penetrating, warm, and active parts, which are able to pass the pores, and mix with, and rarify any obstructed matter, so that it may be rendered fit for discharge, upon laying open the part by caustic or incision. Yet people in general are not aware of the dangers brought on by misapplications of this kind. For, in many instances, the included matter becomes so rarified by the subtilty and heat of the topical remedy, that the reflux blood washes it back into the common mass: and, on the other hand, by such rarefaction, the matter is made to take up more room than necessary; and consequently, a greater concourse of fluid will be occasioned by the sense of pain, &c. in the part. Again, as fatty substances mixed with mucilaginous seeds, herbs, roots, &c. may be termed ripeners, from their softening the fibres, so as to hinder their making such resistance to the included matter, as they otherwise would do; on the other hand, sticking plaisters, made of rosin, Burgundy pitch, turpentine, and the like, act on a quite different principle, and yet are *ipso facto* as much ripeners as the oily and fatty substances; although, as I just now said, they act differently. And this shews plainly, that the same effect may be produced from quite different causes.

Rosin, turpentine, &c. ripeners, and why.

The manner by which hard adhesive bodies become ripeners, or drawers, as the common appellation is, is peculiar to sticking plaisters, which adhere so close to the part affected, that they hinder the transpiration of the common perspirable matter through the pores of the skin. The consequence of which is, that such comminuted matter returns with some degree of force; and, at last, by a tendency to move the same way, occasions such frequent encounters and occurrences, as will, by

by degrees, attenuate and dislodge the obstructed humours; whereby they either suppurate into matter, or are propelled through the true skin in human bodies; and for want of room to get farther, because of the sticking plaister, they elevate the *cuticula* or scarf-skin into a blister; and so these humours lie collected between the thin skin on the outside of the body, styled *cuticula*, and the true skin under it, in the form of a thick *serum* or jelly. And this is the reason why such substances applied to any part undistempered, will often raise blisters; as is frequently practised to make revulsion in some pains of the head, defluxions of rheum upon the eyes, &c.

When these sorts of sticking substances, such as turpentine, rosin, Burgundy pitch, and the like, are applied to horses, in order to bring any included humours to suppuration, or gather, as the vulgar express it; the hair should be clean shaved off the part, and the plaister spread pretty thick, and shaped larger than the swelling; and be continued till the humours are thoroughly digested, or turned to white matter: and then we may, with good reason, hope for a speedier cure than would otherwise be performed.

From hence we may learn how absurdly those people argue, who talk of drawing out thorns, splinters, &c. as if such things were performed by the application upon the pained part, in the same manner as such thorn, &c. might be pulled out, provided we had a piece of strong thread tied about it. And thus far with respect to ripening or drawing out medical applications; therefore I must now resume my subject relating to the gravel in horses.

A horse's hoof is, in a great measure, comparable to the nails of our fingers: for when the disease called the *whitloe*, happens at the end of one's finger, or rather near the root of the nail, it is scarce possible to hinder it from causing an unevenness in such nail afterwards; because when once it becomes knubed and curled, it will still grow so; and I have observed the same thing happen

Drawing out
thorns,
splinters,
&c. by plai-
sters, a
wrong noti-
on, as the au-
thor ex-
plains it.

A horse's
hoof com-
pared to the
nails upon
the fingers
of human
bodies.

pen from crushes and bruises upon the nails by accidents. So that I say, a horse's hoof is in some sort like a man's nail; because if the hoof be affected pretty deep with gravel, so that the farrier is obliged to scrape or pare a good deal of it away, to clear it of gravel, &c. such hoof generally grows curled and uneven during life. Nor is there any method to prevent it, though you grease or oil his hoof ever so much. But indeed the jockies often rasp off the unevenness, in order to deceive the unwary chapman; so that before you buy a horse, it behoves you to examine his feet well, seeing this part (excepting the eyes) is the first which fails him. Therefore I advise the reader once again, to study thoroughly the motto to this, as well as to some other of my performances, which is inculcated by *Horace*, where he gives us his opinion of the manner or method by which we should chuse one of the fair sex, and the comparison is very just, *viz.*

Motto to
this piece.

The author
advises us to
give due at-
tention to it.

Gravel, how
to try for it.

———— *Ubi equos mercantur, opertos
Inspiciunt; ne si facies (ut sæpe) decora
Molli fulta pede est, emptorem inducat hiantem,
Quòd pulchræ clunes, breve quòd caput, ardua cervix.*

As to the gravel in horses, the halting or lameness is often mistaken for some other ailment. For example; it is often mistaken for a pain or strain in the shoulder, back-sinew, &c. and indeed the shoulder-slip, as it is called, is often taken for a gravel. Therefore, there is no way but to try the hoof by squeezing with a pair of pincers: for by this means a nice finger and clear head will judge rightly of the thing, from the horse's yielding or drawing away his foot when the pincers squeeze upon the part affected.

Secondly, Regard should be had to the nail-holes, *viz.* whether they seem to be near the quick or no. And this happens according to the make and constructure of the horse's hoof, some of which have the circumference much more distant from the quick, or ends of the small blood-vessels, than others.

thers. Neither is there any certain rule to go by, so as to discover rightly the difference of horses, with respect to this last particular ; seeing there are many flat hoofs with the quick near their circumference, and other deep or high hoofs, that have it farther off. Therefore it requires a nice eye, a nimble finger, and proper judgment so as to form comparisons, before a farrier is duly qualified to drive a nail into a horse's foot. Few farriers qualified to drive a nail into a horse's foot.

Some horses indeed are so tender and beaten up on their feet, that they can scarcely abide squeezing with a pair of pincers, without complaining, although no gravel be lodged near the quick ; and in such a case it is, that allowances are to be made, and that less pressure is required for the inquiry than those with strong hoofs. Thin-hoofed horses, harder to judge of their being pricked, than those with strong hoofs.

It is a general rule, viz. *Whenever any extraneous body or foreign matter happens to be lodged in any part of the animal machine, such enemy should be dislodged and taken out of the body, as safely and soon as possible.* Therefore, if gravelly matter be got up the nail-hole, or otherwise, to the quick, it ought to be removed as soon as may be, though with as little loss of substance as the nature of the case can well bear : for it is a folly to cut, pare, and scrape the hoof, so much as is frequently done by ignorant fellows in cases of gravel ; seeing, as we say, an inch is a deal in a man's nose ; and if you cut too much hoof away, it will be a great while before the deficiency is supplied, and the breach repaired, and consequently the same will be liable to admit more gravel into the same hole. So that I advise just as much of the hoof to be taken away as is necessary, viz. so far as till the blackness or discolouration vanishes ; and afterwards to dress the wound with the following balsam. Gravel should be taken out as soon as possible.

“ Take of gum Benjamin, half an ounce ; storax, three drachms ; balsam of Peru, half an ounce ; aloes, called *Succotrine aloes*, three drachms ; choice myrrh, six drachms : powder all grossly ; and, after putting them into a wide-mouthed Balsam for a prick in the foot.

“ mouthed pint gooseberry bottle, pour upon them
 “ one pint of rectified spirit of wine; and, corking
 “ it loosely, set the bottle in sand, in an iron pot,
 “ over a middling fire; and keep the spirit pretty
 “ warm for twenty four hours, shaking the tin-
 “ cture up every now and then, to dissolve the
 “ gums, &c.; after which you may keep it close
 “ stopped for use, and decant it off clear as you
 “ want it.”

Vervain's
balsam.

This is the famous *Vervain's* balsam, which is said to work such wonderful cures upon wounds, or pricks fresh received; and no doubt but it is an excellent composition,

The method of applying it is, to warm it, and dip a piece of tow or lint in it, and so to fasten it upon the part that is cleared of the gravel, thorns, &c. and to renew it as it grows dry; or, if you will have it in Capt. *Burdon's* style, let it be applied till the part affected is well.

Capt. *Burdon*, in his *Pocket-farrier*, orders an ointment for curing the gravel, which scarcely differs from the common green ointment of the colt-gelders, and which generally goes by the name of *gelding-salve*. But this has rather too much grease in the composition, which is apt to breed fungous or proud flesh in wounds of the hoof. Therefore, till the balsam prescribed can be prepared, the ointment for a navel-gall, p. 24. may be used. Neither indeed, as to a poultis, which the said Captain mentions, to be lapped round the horse's foot in cases of the gravel, can I say much against it; seeing whatsoever poultis is applied to pained parts, provided such poultis is compounded of softening and emollient ingredients, such as the following, it will be of service.

A poultis
for a heated
hoof from
gravel, &c.

“ Take of mallow and marsh-mallow leaves, of
 “ each four handfuls; pellitory of the wall, two
 “ handfuls; white-lily root, boiled by itself and
 “ beaten to a pulp, four ounces; linseed bruised,
 “ one ounce boiled to a mucilage, or jelly, in a-
 “ bout a pint of water: keep the white-lily root
 “ and the mucilage of the linseed by themselves;
 “ and

“ and when the other herbs are well boiled, and
 “ squeezed from the water, and beaten well, mix
 “ all warm up together, and stir in about ten oun-
 “ ces of fresh hog's lard, and keep for use.”

This should be applied very warm round the foot when the wound has been dressed with the balsam before mentioned, and renewed as often as it becomes dry ; which will be according to the anguish and heat in the hoof.

I might here enter into an account of the mechanical operation of emollient or softening medicines, and shew the reader the nature of an animal fibre ; which, when corrugated or contracted by too much heat or distension, becomes painful ; and when relaxed or softened by these sort of applications before spoken of, is restored to its natural tone and motion, and consequently to ease. But this, though a very easy task, would require more words than I can spare for a tract of this kind, designed only as a sort of compendium for the pocket. However,

The author's account of pain and ease from heated and relaxed animal fibres.

If the above poultis be thought too troublesome to make, that of Capt. *Burdon's*, which is only boiled turnips, the water being squeezed from them, and a little hog's lard, may do ; seeing it is not the turnips themselves, but the warm moisture and grease that helps to relax and soften the fibres ; and this effect of consequence must procure ease.

The true doctrine of an animal fibre, which teaches us what is necessary to be done in most, if not all the distempers affecting human and brute creatures, is so little understood, that many and great enormities are committed for want of such knowledge. And nothing is more common, than for people to be brought ten or twenty miles upon a cart, or on horseback, to a surgeon, for the cure of a prick of a thorn, or the like, which has happened to pierce some tendinous or membranous part ; for, after the accident, there is not a great deal of pain, I mean after the first smarting is over : and this, together with the inconsiderableness of the wound, makes the person take little or no notice of it ; so he e'en falls to his usual work, whereby

The true doctrine of an animal fibre not understood by many.

whereby fluxion and inflammation are brought on, and generally an abscess, with ragged and jagged lips, that point out to us a mortification of the limb was at the door, and only prevented by strength of nature, (as we express it), along with spirituous and strongly-digested applications. This has been the case with a great many under my care ; I mean, there have been brought to me scores of patients, who, when they came, were in great danger of losing a limb from the prick of a thorn or sharp-pointed instrument, and walking about, or stirring such limb too soon : whereas, had such people only kept their beds, (which is best), or rested the limb a few days on a couch, and embrocated with oil of turpentine, or applied a softening poultis, a small expence would have served. But this is a secret, my brethren will tell me, should not be spoke thus publicly. Yet I am easily as to that ; seeing I think it the business of an author, to be candid and communicative when he relates cases, or would inform us how to cure diseases ; and therefore he that turns author, and yet keeps from us his *nostrums*, (as he thinks them), had better keep his pen from paper, and publish his performances in a much narrower compass, *viz.* under the title of *A clap-bill*, or the like. Neither indeed need any person of education and judgment fear wanting bread through his writing openly ; because such person must know, that *so many things go to all things* ; and that cases and circumstances differ so widely, insomuch that mistakes will of course happen, whereby we shall get fees.

From hence the reader may observe, that very dangerous cases are often, nay very often, brought on from seemingly trivial ones at first ; and all through a neglect of studying the property of an animal fibre. And it may be farther remarked also, *viz.* That it is scarcely in the power of inward medicines, or outward applications, to perform a cure in cases where the patient (whether human or brute) is kept in a posture of body different to the main intention. What I mean is, that it behoves every

The business of an author is to be candid and communicative.

A proper posture of body necessary in the cure of many diseases.

ry man to lay hold on time by the forelock, when any accident, whether bruise, cut, or the like, happens to himself or his horse. But more especially this should be regarded, when the wound is upon the arm or leg of the first, or the leg of the latter; because rest, and keeping the wounded limb in a horizontal position, or rather in a small point of elevation above the rest of the body, will perform greater feats than all the whole tribe of unguents and balsams, let them be ever so judiciously compounded, or pompously extolled. And really, if this was not the case, the famous sympathetic powder of Sir *Kenelm Digby* had never gained the ground it did in former days: for where is the sense, or rather how ridiculous is it for us, to attribute any healing virtue to the calcined vitriol sprinkled upon the bloody cloth, and the instrument which gave the wound. Indeed he orders the wound also to be sprinkled with the powder; but such sprinkling only ties up the mouths of the bleeding vessels, without imparting any balsamic quality to the wound. Therefore I say, it is resting the limb or body properly, as is, at the same time, directed by the Knight to his patients, which the greatest stress is to be laid on, for reasons before cited. And herein we may observe that great truth, *viz. Cures are oftener attributed to wrong than to right agents.* And, for my own part, I must ingenuously declare, that I seldom meet with a man that understands the reason of things, although all men are free enough of their advice, as well as positive in their opinion, with respect to this or that medicine or application performing unheard-of wonders, &c. &c. &c.; and the more so, provided the nostrum has luckily been handed down from father to son, through a whole generation of blockheads.

Sympathetic powder, Sir *Kenelm Digby's* mentioned.

Cures very often attributed to wrong agents.

A nostrum handed down from generation to generation, the

What I would infer from the aforesaid doctrine, is this, *viz.* The more rest any animal has in cases of wounds, bruises, strains, &c. the better. And although a horse is apt to stand upon his feet when he feels pain and anguish in his limbs; yet such

author ridicules such things.

Method to
make a horse
lie down.

horse should be forced down in a large stall, by tying up one of his forefeet close, and fastening a small rope about the other fetlock, and bringing the end of it over his shoulder; then hitting that leg behind the knee with your foot, and at the same time pulling his nose strongly down to the manger, you will bring him on his knees; where you should hold him till he is tired, which will not be long. But if he do not lie down soon, you should get some body to thrust sideways against his quarters, to throw him over. Mind your halter be good, and staple in the manger strong. By

Wounds in
good consti-
tutions will
heal of them-
selves, if the
patient rest
long enough.

this means, a flux of humours, or rather what we may call a stagnation of the blood and humours, the forerunner of an inflammation of one sort, is prevented; and the wound, in such case, will heal of itself, (as we say), provided the constitution of the animal be of that nature, as to render the blood balsamic, and friendly to the sore. But to return to the gravel in horses:

I have said, that all the sand, dirt, or other extraneous bodies, should be carefully cut and scraped out; and this, I say, should be done carefully, for reasons before cited. And,

When you have pared away all the blackness, you may dress the part with the following ointment, *viz.*

Ointment
for a gravel-
led horse.

“ Take of turpentine, two ounces; rosin and
“ Burgundy pitch, of each one ounce; bees-wax,
“ one ounce and half; fresh butter, four ounces;
“ French verdigrease, finely powdered, half an
“ ounce.”

Clarify the butter; and, after melting the hardest substances first, put in the other, and last of all the powdered verdigrease; and stir the whole about till it is very near cold, otherwise the ointment will be more sharp at the bottom than top.

It is necessary there should be some butter or grease in this ointment; although I am satisfied such things in general had much better be left out, especially in compositions to be applied to wounds in horses: for these require strongly-digestive medicines,

dicines, otherwise fungous or proud flesh will sprout up fast; and this of consequence must retard the healing of the wound. But as to the hoof of a horse, it is like a man's nail, as I have hinted; and requires something softening and unctuous, when it is faulty: and therefore Capt. Burdon is not out, when he directs the horse's foot that is gravelled, to be put into a warm poultis with hog's lard in it; though, by the by, I do not think the Captain has ordered grease enough to be added to the boiled turnips: therefore I dare say, the best way will be, to clap a print of fresh butter upon the sole of the horse's foot, and thrust it in well between the shoe and hoof, covering it with moist cow's dung afterwards.

A proper application to ease a horse's foot.

This will soften the hoof; or, if I was not to talk like an apothecary, *viz.* foreign to vulgar capacities, I should say, that greasy poultises applied to pained parts, where the fibres are as it were crisped and corrugated, help to relax and soften such fibres, and thereby contribute towards the ease of animals in distress; and more especially as such things, by their softening quality, give more room to the included humours to be disposed of according to the order of nature; which, of all others, must certainly be the most beneficial both to human and brute creatures.

The author fears being censured for talking like an apothecary.

Nature the best guide.

I need not set down any other method or form of management for the cure of a gravelled foot, seeing one good ointment is as good as ten thousand. And as to drawing ointments, plaisters, &c. it is all a mere jest: for there is no ointment or plaister which has the property of drawing gravel, splinters, or other extraneous bodies, out of horses feet, nor indeed out of any of the parts of animal bodies; although it is a very common expression amongst the vulgar to say, Such or such a thing will draw out a thorn, splinter, &c.

No such thing, strictly speaking, as drawing ointments, plaisters, &c.

What I have said with respect to the gravel in the foot, may suffice with respect to a prick in the foot with a nail, or any sharp-pointed body; by reason, keeping the horse in the stable, and applying

Farriers, we should not suffer them to rip up a horse's hoof too much.

The quick in a horse's hoof, how it lies.

The ignorance of a blundering lawyer not punishable by our laws.

Clap in the sinew defined.

ing a softening poultis full of grease, will ease the pain and anguish; and by such means also the hoof will be more easily pared away where necessary; and the aforesaid ointment applied to the part affected, will perform the cure. Yet always keep in mind my advice given a while ago, *viz.* Do not suffer the farrier to rip up your horse's foot on every slight occasion; for if you do, it will most frequently grow curled, and have the aspect of a tender beaten hoof.

There is an old saying amongst blacksmiths, (of the better sort I may say, because many of them are exceedingly ignorant); and it is this, *viz.* When they speak about shoeing a horse into the quick, they pretend to puzzle us with their quaint expressions of *before behind, behind before*; which is no more in the main, than that the quick of a horse's hoof lies near the heels of his fore feet, and near the sprun or spurn, which is the fore part of the hinder feet: and therefore every smith should beware of coming too near those parts of horses hoofs in shoeing.

There is a law against blacksmiths for damages, when they shoe a horse in the quick; and it is a great pity, there is not the same remedy against ignorant blunderers of other professions; such as the blundering doctor, the blundering lawyer, &c.; for these do more mischief by far: neither is the ignorance, especially of the latter, punishable.

The next thing I shall treat upon, is *a clap in the back sinew*, as it is called. But why people call it a *clap*, I am at a loss to find out: for this ailment is, properly speaking, an over-stretched tendon; and, unless my readers had some notion of the property of an animal fibre, which I have often mentioned, as well as a smatch of knowledge in human and comparative anatomy, I shall find it hard to be understood, provided I should write sensibly. However, I shall in this, as well as in all other points I treat upon, study brevity and plainness, notwithstanding I may be now and then censured by the vulgar, and deemed to speak like an apothecary,

pothecary, viz. foreign to common understandings. I say then, that what is usually styled a *clap in the back sinew*, is, in plainer *English*, an *over-stretched tendon*, and that a tendon is the extremity of a muscle, and that both are only a composition of animal fibres. Therefore,

When a horse over-reaches in his walk or trot, he is apt to strain the back sinew, but mostly by getting his foot into a hole in the road: for when he does this, and has a heavy weight upon his back beyond his natural strength, he often catches himself so hastily upon stumbling, that he strains the back sinew, or tendon behind his fore leg.

The cure of this misfortune is best accomplished by cooling applications, such as the following, viz. The cure.

“ Take of bole armoniac, four ounces; whites of eggs, number ten; stir these well; and add thereto as much strong port-vinegar, either white or red, as will make it of the consistence of a pretty stiff poultis; and apply it upon thin leather all along the sinew and part affected, after the leg has been well bathed and washed with warm water, and wiped dry with an easy hand.” A cold charge for a clap in the back sinew.

I have also given Sir *William Parson's* nostrum, p. 94.

Capt. *Burdon* directs his turnip-poultis before mentioned (p. 25. and 59.) in this case, as well as in most other outward ailments in horses; so that one would almost believe it of kin to *Hudibras's* sword-handle, which served for fight and dinner both. But all the good which proceeds from that application, is a sort of kindly warmth, such as that of the steam of hot water or the like; which, in some measure, eases the pain and anguish of the part that is inflamed. Capt. Burdon's turnip-poultis mentioned.

If your horse will lie down and ease his leg, it will do him more service than any application you can be told of; although there are an hundred receipts, I may say, that are famed for performing such cures, and consequently handed down from the wise father to the wiser son, amongst the sacred archives of the family, which, on examining, Common receipts in families censured.

appear to be worse compositions than ever entered the heads of *Nicholas Culpepper* or *William Salmon* in our way, or *Markham* or *Blundeville* in the way of farriery.

The author thinks it ill manners to contradict gentlemen too much, when they are opinionated with respect to their nostrums.

I have been told a great many secrets and nostrums for the cure of a clap in the sinew; and even heard it insisted on, that such or such a thing would perform to admiration, and set the horse to rights in one night's time. But, as reason, and the knowledge of the animal œconomy, must guide us, we only give ear to, or rather, out of good manners, allow a gentleman to tell his story in praise of the application; yet keep our thoughts to ourselves, rather than create disputes before an unlearned audience.

A nostrum for a clap in the back sinew.

There is a farrier somewhere on the *London* road from *Lancashire*, that, in cases of overstretched sinews, I mean in a clap of the back sinew, applies spirit of wine, and oil of vitriol, in about the proportion of two of the first to one of the latter, which is said to do wonders. And indeed the thing is not out, provided the relaxation is not violent, and an inflammation and flux of humours already come on.

The way of using it, is to bathe the sinew now and then with it cold; though I would desire some hard-handed fellow to rub it on, whose skin would not be much hurt by the sharpness of the liquor, rather than do it myself.

Ignorant men often fancy they perform cures, where in they had no other hand than to obstruct nature in her operations for the benefit of the patient.

People often judge of things in a wrong light. For when a horse happens to get only a slight hurt of the kind I am speaking of, which would go off even of itself, as we say, in a small space of time, the ignorant person who applies his nostrum, fondly believes he has performed a wonderful cure; whereas, perhaps, it is nothing so, but that the hurt was slight, and therefore would have gone off in the same time, although nothing had been applied. And indeed I have the greatest reason to believe, that it fares thus, in most cases whatsoever, with respect to outward as well as inward diseases both in human and brute creatures; that is, so

so sure as any ignorant person happens to apply this or that medicine, in nick of time, when nature has performed the feat. I say, when this so falls out, the vulgar are ready to attribute the success to the ill-contrived gallimaufry, or hotch-potch of a composition, that has neither sense nor reason in the contrivance. However, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, &c.

In fine, claps in the back sinews, or, in other words, relaxed fibres, are curable in a longer or shorter space of time, according to the degree of affection: that is, if the sinew is much strained, and a flux of humours brought on, occasioned by the tension and heat of the parts; in this case, I say, rest and time, together with a wide stall, or turning out to grass, is the best cure, provided we first bleed the horse in any part of the body, and lessen the quantity, and thereby prevent that fluid from acquiring too much of a feverish heat; which otherwise it would be apt to do from pain, and restlessness, the two inseparable companions of a strained sinew.

Some are for bleeding in the spurn-vein in these cases: but such farriers are ignorant of the doctrine of revulsion; which to explain, would at present exceed my narrow bounds.

I have seen many degrees of a clap in the sinew; and some there are that can scarce ever be cured, although firing and blistering has been made use of: for although the horse may step upright upon his lame leg, yet when he comes to hard pinching, the cord will again give way. But this is when a horse has been let down or broken down in the sinew, so as that his footlock almost touched the ground when he was upon his walk.

If your horse happens to get a strain in his back sinew on a journey, and that he is a valuable horse, never hazard his growing worse by pressing him on; but rather leave him to the care of some honest farmer; (for I bar almost all kinds of farriers whatsoever, they are so abominably ignorant, and consequently too fond of applying this or that foolish

Claps in the sinews are cured in a longer or shorter time, according to the degree of relaxation of the fibres, and heat of the part.

Claps in the sinew, some of them never to be cured.

Better to leave a lame horse with an honest farmer, than with an unskilful farrier.

ish composition) : I say, leave him with some honest farmer, who has courage sufficient to keep off all demi-doctors, and sense enough to know, that *a great many things go to all things* ; and by this means you will stand a much better chance to receive your horse again sound and well, than by committing him to the care of any farrier that I know of, either in *England*, or any other of the four capital kingdoms through which I have travelled.

Clap in the
finew, if a
severe one, a
winter's run-
ning little e-
nough to
cure it.

I dare say, it requires as long a time for a horse to be thoroughly well recovered of a clap, I mean a severe clap in the back finew, as it does for that of a broken leg ; and, in my opinion, a winter's running is little enough in such cases. But indeed slight hurts, (as I have said before), they will go off sooner, by applying the cold charge of bole armoniac, whites of eggs, and wine-vinegar, [p. 65.] ; and to repeat it as it dries.

Shoulder-slip.

The shoulder-slip is cousin-german to the clap in the back finew ; for they are both relaxed fibres, that want to restore themselves to their natural ten- sity ; and it is rest and ease, together with a prone posture of the body, which is most likely to effect a cure ; and really rest will do more good, either to man or beast that has got a strain, than any drug or composition of the shops, as before remark- ed, how well soever contrived or recommended. And as to that so common thing, viz. spirit of wine camphorated, it is as erroneously made use of as any application whatsoever ; because this, as well as all other spirituous mixtures, have a quite different effect upon the animal fibres, than that which is commonly imagined ; the truth of which is demonstrated by the late learned *Boerhaave*, in his chymical as well as other lectures ; which it would do well for gentlemen of leisure and pene- tration to peruse.

Spirit of
wine and
camphire
has not the
effect as
commonly
imagined,
and why.

The author
recommends
the study of
the late Dr
Boerhaave's
chymical
lectures.

Capt. *Bur-*
don's account
of the signs
of a shoul-
der-slip and

Capt. *Burdon* gives us his notions in four lines, with respect to our judging of a horse's shoulder-slip, or back finew strained ; and, if I remember right, it is this, viz.

“ If in the back finew, he will lift his toe off
“ the

of u 10
8f 8 8
of u 10
of u 10
8f 8 8

“ the ground and step short, though downright back sinew
 “ lame ; but if in the shoulder, he will drag his strain.
 “ toe as he walks.”

This is a good description, and is pretty near the mark ; for many times the farriers are deceived, (although they are exceedingly positive in opinion), and mistake the one of these for the other : yet, in the main, it requires a nice hand and discerning eye, rightly to distinguish the difference ; more especially when the back sinew is only slightly strained : but when the hurt is violent, we feel the leg hot, and the sinew thicker than that of the other side. And as to the strained shoulder, no difference of heat or swelling can be perceived, unless by a very nice hand indeed. However, if the leg continues cool after twenty four hours standing, I mean twenty four hours after the hurt received, we may reasonably determine the misfortune to be lodged in the shoulder ; and accordingly proceed to oil him with the following, *viz.*

“ Take oil of turpentine, two ounces ; oil of
 “ swallows and petroleum, of each half an ounce.
 “ Mix.”

Let this be well rubbed in, and the horse stirred a little after it, to prevent his being restless from the warmth of the application.

Some heat the oils in with a hot fire-shovel, or the like : but I think it best, to heat the shoulder well before he is rubbed ; and this may be done with a piece of flat iron heated pretty hot, and held about a span from the part ; and by that means the pores in his skin will become more open to receive the benefit.

It is no uncommon thing, nay, I know it is very common, for farriers to make mistakes with relation to strains in horses legs, &c. ; for they will sometimes tell you the hurt is in the coffin-joint, fetlock-joint, &c. when ten to one it is in the shoulder or elbow-joint below. However, all we can do, is to try with our hand all places which may possibly occasion the horse to halt ; and if there is a preternatural heat more than about the same

The author's account of the same.

Oils for a shoulder slip.

Farriers often mistake the part affected, and fancy a horse lame in a different place.

same part on the opposite side, we may conclude the misfortune to be situate accordingly.

There are several small sinews about the fetlock-joint, which often suffer from strains, and their outward coats therefore start up into what we call

The cure of wind-galls. The cure consists mostly in cooling the parts with the following cold charge, and suffering the horse to lie idle, rather at grass than in the house; and the longer this is consented to, the better.

The cold charge for strains in the fetlock.

Cold charge for strains.

“ Take the lees of strong wine, either red or white, or wine-vinegar, to the quantity of about half a pint, and add thereto of common bole-armoniac in powder, one pound; (which you should have afforded for 6 *d.*). To these put the whites of six eggs, and beat all well together; and apply it thick in the form of a poultis, which must be renewed as it dries.”

If the quantity of powder be too much or too little for that of the wine-lees, it may be altered so as to make it of the consistence of thick honey.

Strains in the fillets. See p. ult.

Strains require rest.

Strains frequently, as well as twistings in the joints, happen on a journey, without any sensible heat or outward appearance of swelling; so that farriers often mistake the place where the ailment lies. However, if the part can be discovered, I think the cold charge as aforesaid, most promising of cure. But in all cases of strains, it is absolutely necessary to suffer the horse, either totally to rest, or else only to travel very easy, nay exceeding easy stages, according to the degree of the disorder; seeing nothing in nature can be worse, than too violent motion, where accidents of this kind happen to the joints or sinews. And as to rowelling, it is a jest; for it has no relation to the cure, although

though the same may be erroneously attributed to such proceedings: for though the lameness go off after rowelling, I insist upon it, it was not the number of rowels, but the rest from business, and length of time, which were the main agents.

I have seen many running-horses, and have had several myself, that were troubled with wind-galls, occasioned from the stress put upon the sinews in their exercise, &c. and have observed, that in the spring, if such horses had had ease in winter, the wind-galls would have appeared very small, and many of them quite fallen; yet on hard exercise they would start up afresh: so that when a horse is wind-galled pretty much, I imagine there is scarce any cure; or if there is, by the method of striking a fleam into them, as is sometimes done, and applying corrosive powders afterwards. I say, though this practice may now and then succeed, I think it oftener does harm, by causing greater misfortunes; seeing wind-galls are, in general, more reasonably termed blemishes than distempers. And, if I was on the jury of trial of a cause, where general warranty of a horse's soundness was the point in dispute, I should give it for the dealer who sold the horse, provided there was no other objection besides a few wind-galls; because there is not one horse in ten without such tumours, either about the hoofs, or fetlock-joints, and yet such horses may do their business as well as any other.

Wind-galls
blemishes,
not distem-
pers.

There is a famous fellow somewhere in the south of *England*, that sells a nostrum for the cure of wind-galls. I have forgot what town he lives in, but am well informed, that his secret is what he may call oil of pitch: but there is no such oil prepared that I know of; therefore it must be the *pissellæum Indicum* of the shops, which is what we term *Barbadoes* tar; though indeed the *Latin* word seemingly implies oil of pitch, *q. d. picis oleum*: for this is a very penetrating thing, and may perhaps do service in these cases, provided the horse be turned out for some time, and the fetlock-joints or hoofs (if

Barbadoes
tar, a secret
for the cure
of wind-
galls.

(if the tumours are there) be rubbed with it now and then.

I shall now proceed to the cure of coughs and colds, so common to road-horses in particular. And, *first*,

Cough.

A cough or cold (as it is called) is perceived by the horse looking heavy and dull; and when it is severe, his eyes run, and a kind of gleet is discharged at his nose.

Colds in general are occasioned by too sudden cooling horses when heated, or by giving them cold water when in such a state of body. I have seen several horses become phthificky, nay even broken-winded, by riding them belly-deep in cold water when they were upon a sweat; and this the farriers call by the name of *molten-grease*; a term as unintelligible as the rest of their jargon with which they fill our ears on every occasion.

Molten grease, an unintelligible piece of jargon.

Lungs, brain, and guts of animals, soonest affected by colds, and why.

The lungs of every creature are very susceptible of impression, as well as the brain and bowels: and therefore these parts are most generally affected, when the perspirable matter designed to go off through the pores in the skin, is hindered and obstructed by cold air, or a cold body applied either inwardly or outwardly, such as water, which causes a constipation, as we term it, and shuts those outlets; and this want of care in the owner of a horse, is often the cause of coughs, purfiveness, broken wind, &c. as well as the cause of the staggers, and many kinds of fevers and other distempers: for what disorder can we mention, wherein catching cold may not be the primary cause? or what tumults are there in the blood and juices, which this obstructed perspirable matter is not able to raise? Surely none: therefore I would advise every man to be careful, especially in winter, how his horse lodges, as well as himself, particularly at night.

Chest-foundered, the farriers do not understand what

When a horse has got a cold that fixes strongly at his lungs, or brain, and that it does not run off at his nose in some days, in this case the farrier will tell you he is chest-foundered; though this indeed is another of their terms which carries no meaning

meaning along with it. However, the doctor then they would
orders his cordial-drench, with aniseed, turmeric, be at by the
long-pepper, grains of paradise, diapente, &c. term.
and if that will not do, with a little balsam of sul-
phur anisated, mixed with warm ale and treacle, he
is at the end of the chapter. But,

There is nothing better for a horse that has got Cordial-ball
a cold, than my cordial-ball, as described p. 51. for colds.
for that frequently given, dissolved in beerish malt-
liquor, will conduce more than any thing else to-
wards the cure; and at the same time guard the
lungs against that irritating sharp humour, that e-
rodes and destroys the natural mucous, or slippery
covering which spreads over the ends of the nerves
and small hair-like vessels in those parts of the bo-
dy, as well as the broncha or wind-pipe.

The ball must be given for a fortnight twice a-
day, about an ounce for a dose; and dissolve it in
stale ale milk-warm, or rather put it between his
grinders, and let him chew upon it for an hour or
two without eating hay or grafs; and afterwards
give him oatmeal and water, or what we call white-
water, lukewarm, stirring him gently about both
before and after watering.

Bleeding in the thigh-vein is proper when the Bleeding in
cold is violent; seeing a plethora, or over-great ful- the thigh-
ness is brought on from the obstructed perspirable vein proper
matter lodged in the vessels and habit of the body. in colds.

I have mentioned the thigh-vein to draw blood Revulsion,
from, in cases where the head, glands of the throat, the doctrine
&c. are affected by a cold; though, if blood be ta- of it not so
ken from any vein at all, it will do nearly as well, much to the
there not being so very much in the doctrine and purpose, ex-
disputes which respect what we term revulsion. cept in very
acute distem-
pers.

I shall, before I pass over the present subject, pers.
just mention something worth the notice of every
gentleman; which is this, viz.

In all lentors or viscidities of the blood, as in Farcy.
cases of the farcy, and the like, bleeding will cause
the remaining fluid to move more quick, provided
there is a due strength and elasticity in the solids,
such as the muscular flesh, coats of the veins and
arteries,

arteries, &c. and it will also become more thin and warm, which shews the necessity of phlebotomy in these distempers. Again,

Bleeding has different effects upon animals, according to the present state of the blood at the time of the operation, and why.

Where there is a plethora, or over-great fulness from a debauch in mankind, or from a surfeit in brute creatures, so that perspiration, or that insensible sweating, (if I may so call it), is impeded and hindered; in this case, I say, bleeding will cause the remaining mass to circulate slower, and become cooler.

In the first case, a diminution of the resistance in the blood-vessels, such as is the blood and humours, I say, diminishing the quantity of blood will increase the contractile powers of those vessels, and consequently make the arteries beat faster, and circulate their contents with greater velocity. But, in the latter case, a diminution of a quantity of a spirituous blood, will lessen the quantity of spirit secreted or separated therefrom in the brain: the consequence of which will be, that the heart and arteries will not contract so often, nor so strongly as before, and therefore will the blood move more slow, and become more cool.

Blood, whence the heat of it arises.

Delirium in fevers, true reason of it.

Hence we may learn, how and in what manner cures are performed by bleeding in several disorders; although by that operation the blood may, with as much reason, be said to become cooler in one disease, while it may be heated in another: for the heat of the blood depends upon the quick pulsation of the arteries, seeing heat is the effect of a rapid motion. And therefore the true reason of watchfulness and delirium in fevers, proceeds from the too great quantity of animal spirit separated in the brain by the too frequent pulsation of the heart and arteries: for if a given number of pulsations or beatings of the heart separate a given quantity of animal spirits, in any given time, surely a greater number of those beatings must, if performed in the like given time, produce a greater quantity of animal spirits; and for this reason, if we can only cool the blood, by laying a clog upon the cause of its too exalted motion, we perform the cure. But then again,

gain, we are rightly to consider before-hand, whether such fever is brought on primarily, by too great a redundancy in the animal spirits, as from high living, &c. or if it is the blood itself, that was originally faulty; that is, whether the blood was so diseased, as to put the spirits into disorder; or the latter, the occasion of the violent motion in the blood, by their too great superfluity brought on as aforesaid.

Fevers, the different sorts of them.

There is no doubt but horses have what we term animal spirits as well as men; but then their nerves are not subject to so many disorders by far, because the brain is nothing like so active: I mean, the faculty of ratiocination in brutes is, as it were, dead; although they are endued with something like it, viz. drawing inferences; as we may observe by several of their actions, in which we also see one horse much wiser than another. But to return to the cure of colds:

Horses, they have not so many nervous distempers as mankind, and why.

I have hinted before, that colds are the effect of obstructed perspiration; and that keeping a horse warm covered, giving him my cordial-ball, with moderate exercise, and a good deal of patience, is most likely to perform the cure.

Colds, a good deal of patience required in the cure of them.

I say, a good deal of patience; because some colds are a long time before they break, (as the common saying is); and, as a horse cannot expectorate, or spit up the matter of the cold, therefore it must run off by the nose. And really, if we observe, we may find such severe colds, as that horses shall appear broken-winded, for at least two or three months, and run at the nose as if glandered, and yet do well at last, provided we religiously keep to the medicine and regimen before spoken of. And,

As to the glanders when confirmed, I apprehend there is no cure; because the cartilaginous or spongy bones in the horse's nose are become carious and rotten, by the acrimony of the humours continuing flowing over them: therefore the first loss is best, viz. Knock him on the head, and give him the dogs.

Glanders when confirmed, there is no cure.

I would be understood, that no horse effectually glandered,

Glanders
not contagi-
ous.

glandered, and he is so when he runs corruption at his nose, of a bad colour, such as blackish, greenish, or bloody, together with an ill smell or flavour; this horse is fitter for a kennel of hounds than any thing else; although the distemper is not contagious or catching, notwithstanding it is one of the most nauseous to the eye, and offensive to the nose, of any I am acquainted with.

It would be endless to enumerate the many evils which proceed from taking cold, not only in brutes but human bodies; so that the late famous physician, as well as facetious companion, in the reigns of *K. William* and *Q. Anne*, might very well answer the gentleman that applied to him in a careless way for the cure of a cold, as he did, *viz.*

Dr Radcliffe
mentioned.

Says the gentleman, "Doctor, I have got a severe cold; what must I do?" "A severe cold, (says *Radcliffe*); why, what the d——I would you have?" meaning by such answer, that most illnesses proceed from colds.

Colds generally affect those parts of the body as are most susceptible of impression; and such are the brain, lungs, and guts of animals: for when that perspirable matter, mentioned by *Sanctorius* the *Italian* physician, and others, is retained in the blood and habit of the body, by a constipation of the pores in the skin; I say, when this is the case, nature endeavours to throw off the enemy by some other outlet, such as the mouth, nose, fundament, urine, &c. and therefore to promote some of these discharges in due time, is the business of every physician, as well as of every farrier. And as the brain is one of the largest, nay, I may truly say, much the largest gland of the whole body, there is separated from thence a prodigious quantity of purulent or ichorous matter, when the blood happens to be over-loaded as aforesaid; and again, some part of the sharp humour passing down the trachea, or wind-pipe, the lungs are thereby excited to violent agitations in order to discharge the enemy. And in human bodies also, this ichorous running at the nose in colds, is often of so sharp and corrosive a nature,

nature, that it erodes and brings off the skin of the upper lip, where it runs along.

The guts of animals are likewise affected by colds: for the matter (as we call it) which should have transuded by the pores, is, by a kind of reverberation, thrown back upon the bowels, and goes off, either by a looseness, or by flatulent and windy crepitations. And in this case also the glands of the intestines are so irritated by the sharpness of the humour that passes off by the fundament, that it almost excoriates or brings off the inner lining of part of the alimentary tube, together with slimy and bloody stools; insomuch that a gangrene or mortification of the bowels is always threatened, and sometimes brought on. These, I mean, are the frequent effects of colds, or perspiration obstructed in human bodies. But as to horses, they are not so subject to diarrhæas or loosenesses, by reason of their prone posture of body, which gives a kind of check to the flowing off of the excrements, &c. And indeed, if we would consider, we may observe, that many distempers in horses (as I have already said) proceed from their natural position of body; so that we might as well refine a little upon that subject, as *Louis Cornaro* (I think his name was) did in his way, when he wrote his book, *De morbis artificum*; wherein he treats of the particular distempers peculiarly incident to different trades and professions.

Diarrhæa, or looseness, horses are not so subject to them as men, and why.

Louis Cornaro mentioned.

The grand point to be observed throughout the whole of the cure of distempers is this, *viz.* Follow nature; for digested, not crude humours, are to be helped off. And, no doubt of it, nature points out the particular discharge; so that if we assist her properly, and take care to prevent the offending matter from injuring the parts as it passes along to the proper emunctory, or outlet, we do all that any wise and experienced physician can do; and he who pretends to perform more, may also pretend to turn the moon with his heels. But I can chuse whether or no I believe him.

Nature, we must attend her operations.

Lastly, When the brain is greatly loaded from cold,

cold, take some of the following powder, and blow it up the horse's nostrils pretty high with a piece of hollow kex, as they call it in some places; which is the herb hemlock, that grows upon stalks that are hollow, and which boys shoot their little darts through when they blow them out of their mouths.

This, or a piece of elder-wood, with the pith out, is most proper for the purpose, provided it is ten inches long, or near it.

A powder
to make a
horse's nose
run in a cold.

The powder is thus prepared, *viz.*

“ Take of the herb, called assarabacca, which
“ is shaped like the garden scurvy-grass, only it is
“ larger, and of a darker green; I say, take of the
“ powder of this herb when dried, half an ounce;
“ and of the powder of marjoram, one ounce:
“ mix these together, and blow it up the horse's
“ nostrils twice or three times a-day, as occasion
“ offers; that is, till his nose run much rheum, &c.
“ and keep his head and throat well covered, or it
“ may open the glands so much as that he may get
“ more cold.”

There are several other errhines, or sneezing-powders; but this is the best and safest, as well as least painful, and will make the nose run like a tap, as we say. Neither is there any thing better in common and nervous head-aches in human bodies, or for colds that affect the head, if used now and then in the manner of tobacco-snuff, and the ears and throat kept warm when one's nose runs; for it may be said to purge the head more than any thing I know of, excepting the mineral turbith, and some other more dangerous preparations of the chymists.

If the horse seems griped in the guts, from the cause aforesaid, let him have the following warming drink given him.

The cordial-
drink in a
cold.

“ Take two ounces of my cordial ball, (*p.* 51.),
“ half an ounce of grains of paradise in powder,
“ and a quarter of an ounce of long pepper, toge-
“ ther with a large nutmeg grated amongst them,
“ and mix all up with a quart of strong mellow ale;
“ and give it the horse in a horn as is usual; and
“ keep him tied up from food for two hours, af-
“ ter

“ter he has been rid about a little, to shake his guts,
“and let loose the imprisoned wind; which a trot,
“of all paces, is most likely to do.”

If the horse is costive, or bound in his body, (as the farriers call it), you may give him the following clyster, about twelve hours after the aforesaid cordial carminative drink.

“Take pellitory of the wall, and mallow-leaves, (either green or dried), of each three handfuls; caraway-seeds bruised, and aniseed, of each one ounce; ground ginger, half an ounce; electuary, called caryocostinum, one ounce: boil the leaves, herb, and seeds well in two quarts of water to three points; then add the ginger and the electuary, and put a quarter of a pound of fresh butter, and an ounce of Epsom salt to the whole: and when all is dissolved, let it be injected, very warm, up the horse's fundament, and his tail tied down between his thighs for a good while, to cause him to retain it the longer. The tail is tied down by the help of a surcingle.”

The clyster for griping in the guts.

These methods, with care and patience, together with warm mashes of malt, bran, and the like, will restore your horse to health again: but always keep it in mind, to have a wide stall, and clean warm bedding, when your horse is any way out of order; for an easy bed is often of more service, than many of the opiates in use, to force rest.

I had almost slipt one thing, in cases of the gripes from cold, or from any spasmodical cause whatever, which excites the fibres of the guts into those violent and painful twitches and convulsive contractions, and which make a horse tumble about, and strike his feet against his belly; and it is this.

Twitches from the gripes quieted.

“To the aforesaid clyster may be added half an ounce of *philonium Romanum*; and it will be of great service in quieting these torminous maladies.”

Honest Monsr. *Burdon*, in his little book of farriery, wherein he has shewn more good nature than learning, orders half a pint of brandy, and the like quantity

Capt. *Burdon* censured.

quantity of sweet-oil mixed, to be given in the gripes; which is very injudicious.

He also advises (amongst other methods less to the purpose) to boil a pound of aniseeds in two quarts of ale, then to put in a pound of honey, and when it is cool enough, to add two ounces of diascordium; and to be given at three doses, half an hour betwixt each dose; which is not amiss. But,

Cure for the gripes.

The best and most immediate cure for the gripes, is, "Take twenty grains or a scruple of *London* laudanum, (or extract of opium); dissolve it in one ounce of brandy; then mix it with a pint of white wine, and add two ounces of diascordium; give it your horse (in a horn) milk-warm, and clothe him well." He should rest twenty four hours after it, and drink plentifully of warm water and oat-meal; for he will be very thirsty the day after he has taken it.

Worms, how to kill them.

If worms be the cause of the gripes, as very often happens, there is no better medicine than an aloes purge or two, at due distances, after giving the horse a quart of sweet wort the night before the purge, to fill the bellies of those unwelcome guests that are so fond of sweet things; for they will be so gorged with the wort, that they cannot hold themselves in the foldings of the guts, when the purge is in operation. If sweet wort was given for three days before the purge, it would be still better.

The purge I would prescribe, in general, should be this, *viz.*

The purge for worms.

"Take about one ounce of horse-aloes, one drachm of diagridium, two drachms of salt of tartar, and forty drops of oil of juniper; mix these well, to which add about one ounce of flour of brimstone; and make all up into two balls, to be given the horse in a morning; and when it purges, (which is commonly in twenty four hours after taking), give him white water, which is oat-meal and water, just lukewarm, as much as he will drink, at proper intervals."

The aforesaid purge will be yet more effectual against the worms, if we add thereto about two scruples

scruples of mercurius dulcis, in fine powder; for of all medicines, mercurius dulcis is the safest and best in these cases, either for man or beast.

A fore back is very common upon the road in Sore back, travelling, and more especially in young horses, whose backs are unused to carry loads: therefore, to these last, a pretty large seated saddle agrees best; and, every morning, alter your crupper a hole or two, that it may thereby draw the saddle back, and now and then let it also have liberty forwards; and by this means he will not carry your weight always in the same places; which will conduce greatly to his ease, and keep the skin upon his back.

I must own, that fore backs as well as diseases in general, are better prevented than cured: for, *carelessness is the root of all evil.* Therefore let your horse's back be cooled every time you bait him, and now and then washed with warm water, and wiped dry with a linen-cloth; and the saddle should also be scraped, so that no hardness nor inequalities remain from the sweat, that, together with dust, stick round the seat on the pannel. Diseases sooner prevented than cured.

When a horse's back is once much inflamed, (which I have more largely treated of at p. 21.), I doubt, it will be too late to keep the skin on upon the journey. However, taking away the cause, viz. altering the pressure of the saddle, so as the parts least heated may bear the burden, and that equally; I say, by this management you will get best to your journey's end, and with least loss of leather to your horse, whatever you do with respect to your own posteriors: and even in this last case, nothing is less better than to cool one's buttocks often, and ride upon a pretty large seated saddle.

I know many people that can ride upon little saddles, nay, I believe, upon a bare saddle-tree, for many miles without galling. And it is these chaps will tell me I talk nonsense, where I happen to enlarge a little in giving my advice to mankind, how they may keep in a whole skin. But I would have these *verè* adepts know, that The author gives his advice how a traveller may keep the skin upon his buttocks on a journey. there

there is as much difference between one man and another in this respect, as between cheese and chalk. And I am sure for my own part, though I ride as much as most men, yet I am as apt to gall as any body, unless I use great care and caution: and for this end, I declare, I have many times changed horses with my servant upon the road, and mounted his mail-saddle, just on purpose to ride a few miles in ease of my backside. For although the saddle you ride upon, may be a very good easy saddle, yet if you only change now and then with your servant, you will find it better, provided the horse is not subject to trot high. Yet,

When the skin is really excoriated, nothing will bring it on before you rest yourself some days; for while the cause continues, the effect will not cease. However, if you needs must jog on with a wry face and a sore a—se, the best thing you can apply, is a piece of diapalma-plaster, spread thin on womens glove-leather, a good deal larger than the sore; and take care it does not lie in creases or wrinkles when you are mounted, and be sure to have a fresh plaster every morning and noon after a bait.

The author describes some men as unfit to ride; and tells us, that nature meant they should walk on foot.

A man should every now and then be putting his fingers before and behind his saddle by turns, to feel whether it pinch the horse; though I have seen many dull souls of such a callous disposition, that they would ride a whole day, nay perhaps a week together, before they would take notice that their poor horse's back was crushed to the very bones: and these, no doubt, are the men which Nature meant to walk on foot, although dame Fortune has been in her airs, and presented them with horses for a time.

Poultis for a crush in the navel-gall.

When your horse happens to be crushed before or behind the saddle, which is the place the farriers call the *navel-gall*, a definition of which I have before given, *p.* 24. and that it swells much, you should, as in all other cases of tumours from crushes, strive to disperse it, by applying warm greasy poultices,

tises, such as scalded bran and hog's lard, boiled turnips, or the like; though there are some slight crushes will yield to cold applications, such as whites of eggs, wheat-flour, bole armoniac, and vinegar, laid thick upon leather, larger than the swelling, and renewed as it dries.

Crush upon the navel-gall, the cure.

Others use a large cold sod, and tie it on with a surcingle. And Capt. *Burdon* tells us of a hot greasy dish-clout; and, in slight cases, salt and water, and the like; and ends the paragraph, with advising us, to mind that a horse's furniture sit easy; for if "it do not, (says he), it will damp him; but if "nothing wound or hurt him, he will travel with "courage." Yet, as to the latter part of the story, I have seen many horses would not travel with courage, although their furniture should sit as easy as a feather-bed; and I have often thought, that this sort is of that garronly breed, which the *Irish* parliament made an act against, viz. That the people of that kingdom should not draw them by their tails; because many a poor d——l became strunted by the barbarous custom of drawing them that way.

An act of parliament in Ireland, against drawing horses by the tails.

When there happens a crush upon the navel-gall, it often becomes what we term an *encysted tumour*; because the matter that forms it, is contained in a strong skin or bag like a bladder: and this kind of swelling is frequently of so cold a nature, that I have seen many of them remain for years, after the hurt received, unless they were carefully cut out by a farrier.

Hurt on the navel-gall.

The method is, to make a long incision, and leisurely to dissect the bag of matter quite out, skin and all, and heal the wound with the following ointment, which I recommend as a general one in all fresh or green wounds, as they are called.

The operation for the cure of a crush upon the navel-gall.

"Take common turpentine, half a pound;
"honey, one pound and a half; hog's lard, half
"a pound; Burgundy pitch, twelve ounces;
"melt these well together; and when it has been
"taken a while from the fire, stir in an ounce of
"French verdigrease in fine powder, and keep
"stirring

The common wound ointment.

“ stirring all about, till it is as thick as honey,
 “ or so long as that the powder cannot fall to the
 “ bottom.”

Grease or
 oil, the less
 of these in
 ointments
 for healing
 wounds, the
 better.

We cannot well contrive an ointment for horses, without some oil or grease in the composition, because of the hair, which will be apt to stick to the turpentine, &c. without such softening mixture. However, the less grease the better, especially where the wound requires a strong digestive, as in old swellings that are laid open, fistula's, &c.; but, in recent wounds, where the native heat about the part is not so deficient, we admit of more oil, grease, &c. in the applications.

All oint-
 ments should
 be prepared
 harder or
 softer, ac-
 cording to
 the season of
 the year.

One thing must be observed, *viz.* All ointments should be made harder or softer according to the season of the year: for if you would make a quantity for summer use, you may add more of the harder substances than you would do against winter; and if the above ointment be required harder or softer, it may be altered accordingly.

Withers
 crushed.

The withers of a horse are also through carelessness often crushed with the saddle-tree; therefore let the saddle answer the shape of the back; and if it is new-stuffed, you must give an allowance for what you think it will run in by pressure, and proceed as before directed about the hurt on the navel-gall.

Sore eyes by
 accidents,
 &c.

The eyes also are often hurt upon the road, either by one accident or other; and I have seen very bad wounds from the cut of a whip, which, though healed with judgment, have left blemishes

Petit-maitre,
 or pert
 cockney,
 these should
 not ride with
 whips.

while the horses lived: so that it is not every *petit maitre*, or pert cockney, that should be trusted with a whip; no more than the females, who, I must confess, are very lavish of their strokes about a horse's head, especially if he happens to be a little dull.

All wounds upon the eye, if curable, will yield to the following application, *viz.*

Cure of a
 hurt upon
 the eye.

“ Take of the grayish (not the reddish) lapis
 “ calaminaris, finely levigated or powdered, half an
 “ ounce; of lapis tutiæ, two drachms; of white
 “ vitriol calcined or burnt, one drachm and a half,
 “ and

“ and about one scruple of French verdigrease :
 “ make these all into fine powder, and mix them
 “ well with about an ounce of fresh well-wrought
 “ butter, and keep for use.”

The way is, to strip a feather all but the tip, and, with the help of it dipt in this ointment warmed, to apply it to the sore, morning and evening, and that too for a good space of time ; because wounds upon the eyes, or upon any of the parts which are subject to such motion, are more difficult of cure, for reasons before cited, under my general account of wounds, p. 48. &c.

Wounds upon the eyes are long in curing.

It would require more time than I can spare, nay it would fill much more paper than the sheets I now design for the press, were I to enter into a detail of the different distempers affecting each particular part of the eye ; I say, each particular part, because this organ of the body is composed of several separate coats and humours, as we term them ; and each distinct part is subject to disorders, even without affecting the whole globe of the eye. Therefore we are not hastily to consider this part as a round ball, or a mere out-side, where all the disorders are superficial ; but rather esteem it one of the wonders of omnipotence, where the animal threads are woven into such fine meanders, that they elude our strictest inquiries. And I am not a little surprised, I must own, to find that travelling oculist, T-yl-r, (whom I thought I had conjured down long ago), risen again, and puffing out his nonsense in the newspapers, pretending he can turn the moon with his heels ; although I am satisfied he is only about his former pitch of knowledge, and therefore playing his cups and balls, as usual.

Eye, its make and structure surprisingly fine.

A remark upon T-yl-r the famous oculist, who travels about the country.

It so happens, you must know, that this so dignified and distinguished gentleman, this *habile homme*, can couch a cataract, I mean he can restore the blind to sight, provided the disease of the eye be a laudable cataract : and this is his all in all, his *omnia mea mecum*, &c. except a little eye-water and the like, which every old woman has experienced to do service for sore eyes. But let me tell the reader,

Common
people, they
are deluded
by specious
pretences,
and are not
proper
judges of
merit.

er, that the couching a cataract is so easy to a steady hand, that I durst even venture to teach a sensible person how to judge of that distemper of the eye, and also to cure the laudable sort, in the compass of half a day ; whereas a true knowledge of the parts of the eye, and the distempers affecting each particular coat, &c. requires some months to attain. And again, it must not be one of your *plum-beum caput's*, one of your leaden-headed fellows, that can scarce write his own name, will ever arrive at the mark, although he had all the opportunity of instruction in the world. But it is merry enough to see how the present oculist to his Majesty, this almost every thing, this knight of *Portugal* too, forsooth ; I assure you, I say, it is exceedingly diverting to see this grand doctor, wheeling it about in his machine drawn by six rosinantes from town to town, and making the poor deluded people stare and gape at him, as if, nay far more than they would do at a second *Newton*.

I know, it may be answered, That this travelling oculist has done good, by restoring the blind to sight ; which I readily confess. But let me be present at the tossing of the juggling box, and I will soon discover the sleight of hand, whereby he only shews those to public view, which he has couched for the cure of laudable cataracts : whereas the bulk of his patients return *re infecta*, and, in the short space of seven years, are sunk in the great abyss of oblivion, never to bewail the loose corns they had been stript of, at the time he formerly shewed himself in this so public manner. But, lest I should take up too much time with this gilded butterfly, let me hasten to my text, *viz.*

As there are so many distempers incident to the eyes of horses, as well as men, it will not be possible for me, at present, to give the reader a true idea of them ; therefore I shall mention a powder and eye-water, and then have done upon that head.

When a horse's eye happens to be hurt by a lash of a whip or twig, you may blow in the following powder

powder night and morning ; but it should be used a good while.

“ Take of lapis calaminaris and lapis tutiæ, fine- Powder for
 “ ly prepared in powder, of each two drachms ; of a hurt upon
 “ white vitriol and alum (calcined or burnt toge- the eye.
 “ ther upon a very clean red-hot fire-shovel, being
 “ first powdered), of each half an ounce ; mix these
 “ together with the other, and keep the whole in
 “ a bottle that is dry and warmed, well corked, for
 “ use.”

I know there are many things might be added to the above powder, such as the bone of the scuttle-fish levigated, a thing in mighty esteem for films and specks upon the eyes, as also verdigrease, Roman vitriol, and the like. But what I have ordered, is the basis of all proper eye-powders ; and therefore to add any thing to it, would only clog, rather than be any addition to its virtues. So that he who pins his faith upon the number of ingredients in a composition, rather than upon a few well-chosen drugs, is a *tiro* in the art of physic, and only A great number of ingredients in a composition, no sign of its being any better for it, although it may appear more pompous to the vulgar.

Now to return :

If the eyes be rheumy and blood-shot, and that the horse has the symptoms of pain in the head, it will be proper to bleed him according to his strength and fulness of flesh. And indeed bleeding is still requisite where the cause is inflammatory, I mean, when there is great pain and restlessness ; because, in this respect, bleeding may be said to cool the remaining mass : whereas, in other cases, as in that of a lentor, not long ago (*p.* 73.) reasoned upon by me, this evacuation may truly be said to heat the before sluggish fluid. Bleeding necessary on account of inflamed eyes, &c.

As to pain in the head, I would recommend the *Astarabacca*

snuff for a
pain in the
head.

herb assarabacca in powder, to be blown up the nostrils with a hollow pipe of wood or the like, twice a-day, and to keep his ears and throat warm covered.

Eye-water.

“ The eye-water I would recommend, may be
“ prepared with four ounces of rose-water, and a-
“ bout three drachms of the aforesaid eye-powder
“ mixed and dissolved in it, and squirted into the
“ eyes, by the help of a pewter syringe, or the like.”

The water is best for rheumy blood-shot eyes where there is no film or speck ; and the powder will answer best when a horse happens to have sops upon his eyes, as they are called. Some pretend, that eye-bright water, frog-spawn water, plantain-water, and the like distilled waters of the shops, are good ; but they are of no use, farther than as a proper vehicle to mix such eye-powders in, as before prescribed. And if you would chuse an ointment, rather than a powder or eye-water, you need only mix about half an ounce of the powder with the like weight of fresh butter, and keep it for the same intentions of cure.

The eye al-
ways looks
worse while
powders, &c.
are using.

The way of application of any of these medicaments, is twice or thrice a-day, according to the urgency of the symptoms : but always observe, that the eye will look worse while you are using these things, although it will clear up, upon omitting the dressings a day or two.

Ophthalmia,
an inward
one threat-
ens blind-
ness.

When a horse has great pain in the head from an inward ophthalmia, I have observed there is danger of his going blind either of one or both his eyes : and when the distemper happens to be seated upon some of the inward coats or coverings of the several humours, such as the capsula or bag which incloses the crystalline, in *Latin* termed *tunica aranea*, from its resemblance to a spider's web ; I say, when this membranous coat, or those called *uvea* and *iris*, happen to have an inflammation upon them, the horse generally loses the sight of the eye affected : for it, in some sort, parboils the crystalline, and vitreous or glassy humour ; so that the eye frequently becomes a glass eye ; or, in other words,

a cataract is formed, which is sometimes curable by turning the opake laminæ off with a needle. But this operation is too nice for a common farrier. Neither are there ten men in the kingdom, in my thoughts, that rightly understand the structure of the eye, and the distempers incident thereto. If there were, I mean, if the anatomy of the eye was a little more studied, and the distempers incident to each particular part better inculcated amongst our youth bred up to the practice of physick and surgery, the world would not be so easily imposed upon in this branch, as it has been for many years by travelling oculists; such as the present oc—st to his M—j—y, together with his predecessors *Grant* and *Read*; the latter of which, because he happened luckily to restore *Signior Vario*, the late Queen's painter, to his sight, when affected with a cataract; I say, for this exploit, although in other points he was a mere ignoramus, he was dubbed *Sir William*.

Eye, the anatomy of it, and its diseases, too little studied.

Grant and *Read*, two oculists, mentioned.

The best thing to hinder a horse from going blind, when he has a pain in his head, from an inflammation of the brain, or any of the membranes which inclose this noble part, or which are situate within the globe of the eye, is the following powder to be blown up the nostrils, *viz.*

“ Take of the leaves of assarabacca, one hand-
 “ ful; dry them in the shade, and powder them
 “ very fine; then add of Florence orrice root and
 “ white hellebore in powder, of each two drachms;
 “ salt of hartshorn, three drachms; and about an
 “ ounce of dried marjoram powdered.”

Powder for an inward ophthalmia, or inflammation of the coats of the eye called *iris* and *uvea*.

The salt of hartshorn should be mixed the last of all, otherwise the volatile nature of it will cause it to lose its virtue; and the whole should be kept for use in a strong bottle with a glass stopple; and when you want it, be sure to put the stopple close in after taking out the quantity of powder for the present.

The manner of using it, is to take a piece of elder-wood, commonly called dog tree or burtry, which the butchers make skewers of; and bore or burn the pith out; and roll a piece of soft paper or

Manner of using the powder for a sore eye that

is affected
internally.

tow round, so as to fill the pipe easily, and pass it down about three inches; then fill the tube from the wadding, to the depth of about half an inch or more, as the necessity of the case may require; and blow the powder, wadding and all, up the horse's nostrils as far as you can.

The design of the wadding is, to prevent the powder from running into the person's mouth that blows it up; for the white hellebore will make one's tongue hot and uneasy for some time if it touches it. Any sort of a hollow pipe will do; for example, a piece of hemlock, commonly called kex, as before described, where I gave an account of the simple assarabacca powder, *p.* 78.

The ignorance of our common farriers pointed out.

I must not here omit pointing out again the ignorance of our common farriers, who imagine themselves to have all the wit in the world; whereas, I am sure, on examination they will be found to have very little wisdom. The case is this, *viz.*

Endemic distemper, account of one amongst horses in Oxfordshire in 1742.

I had a letter lately from a gentleman in *Oxfordshire*, to wit, from *S. Greenhill, Esq;* of *Swinecombe*, near *Nettlebed*, giving me an account of an endemic distemper amongst the horses in that part of the kingdom, which seized them in the head, and at last took away the use of their limbs, together with several of their lives.

This gentleman desired my thoughts, how he might secure some of his horses from the distemper; for he had just then lost two coach-horses and a fine saddle-horse. And my answer to him was, That the powder of assarabacca blown up the nostrils, was very proper for most distempers of the brain; although his farrier had informed him that such preparation, used in the manner aforesaid, would throw a horse into an agony, was his word. Why now, there is no one thing in the universe purges the brain better, nor with less pain or irritation, than the powder of the herb assarabacca; although, in human bodies, it frequently occasions an hæmorrhage at the nose. And in dimness of sight, which often proceeds from a redundancy of humours lodged upon the brain and its meninges, there is
not,

not, perhaps, a more effectual remedy in the whole materia medica, although the secret is not in the hands of many men of the faculty. No; the common errhine or sneezing powder for disorders of the brain and nerves, amongst physicians, is the errhinum chymicum in *Fuller's* dispensatory, a compound prepared with the mercurial turbith, commonly called turbith mineral; which is a very hot pungent snuff, and apt to inflame the parts it is applied to; insomuch that it often occasions the face to swell like a brass pot. A remarkable instance of which I had an account of from the late learned Dr *Boerhaave's* own mouth, viz. That a colonel in the *French* service, having used some snuff, chiefly composed of turbith mineral, which he took from a quack that travelled about as an oculist, and which he ventured upon for the cure of an initiant or beginning cataract upon his eye; I should have said, for the cure of a dimness of sight, which the mountebank termed cataracts upon his eyes; I say, this gentleman, as I was told, had his face so swelled by the turbith mineral snuff, that he had like to have lost his life with it: and therefore I would advise all people to beware of it, although it may not operate in the same degree of danger with all sorts of constitutions. But to return to the farrier's ignorance about the assarabacca powder: I say, the distemper that was raging in some parts of *Oxfordshire* this summer amongst horses, was by these dabblers in natural knowledge styled a pestilential fever; and they therefore agreed that sudorifics, or sweating medicines, must perform the cure. But Mr *Greenhill* informed me, that, notwithstanding his farrier had his own way with respect to a particular horse in the distemper, and that such horse was, seemingly, in a kindly sweat; yet it proved his last sweating-bout, for he died during the operation.

Errhinum chymicum in *Fuller's* dispensatory mentioned.

The case of a Colonel in the *French* service.

In fine, The common farriers are not to be trusted, because they are entirely ignorant of the *modus operandi* of every medicine they meddle with; neither are they any way acquainted with pharmacy,

Common farriers censured.

or

or even with one hundredth part of what we style the *materia medica*: and therefore it is not sufficiently to the purpose, although these demi-doctors may know, that aloes, scammony, gamboge, jallop-root, and the like, will purge your horse; unless they can also inform us, how and in what manner these gums, &c. do this; and likewise in what particular part of the drug such purgative property consists; for otherwise it is only acting in the dark, and playing at blind man's buff: because, when any practitioner of this kind happens to be drove a little off his bias, by his purge working differently to what he expected; he, like a carrier's horse, is at a loss, and so bewildered, that he cannot safely get into the true road again. And just thus it fares with respect to the practice of physick in general, both with regard to human and brute creatures: that is, unless a man understands the true grounds on which this noble science is founded, together with the real virtues of the drugs and compounds he deals in; I say, if the physician and farrier do not know these things, we had better, nay much better, trust ourselves to a wholesome lodging and water-gruel, when we are out of order, and our horses to the care of some sober, honest fellow, that will dress them well, &c. without presuming to any knowledge in drugs, rather than to employ an ignorant coxcomb, that, for every ounce of solid sense he utters, vents a tun of insupportable sustian, no way reconcilable to right reason, and the nature of things.

White hellebore snuff.

I have added white hellebore to the assarabacca powder; because horses require an errhine or snuff of this kind, a little more pungent than human bodies: so that, in all disorders of the brain, and defluxions of rheum upon the eyes, as well as to dislodge pituitous and slimy humours by the nostrils, the aforesaid powder is excellent, if blown up the horse's nostrils by turns, till you have consumed about half an ounce; and, the following day, observing to move the horse about, sometimes on a canter, sometimes on his walk, in order to make him

him sneeze, and clear his head the better. I shall now proceed to some other ailments which happen on the road. And, first, of bowel-galling.

A horse is said to be bowel-galled, when the girth frets his skin between the elbow of his fore leg and his ribs.

This is occasioned by a horse's shape generally : Bowel-gall-
for when the fore parts about the shoulders and ed.
breast are thin, and the belly large, the saddle runs towards the haddle or withers, and the girth works the skin off about the places described.

The cure is best performed by anointing with the The cure.
common white ointment of the shops ; and taking away the cause, by shortening the crupper, according as necessity urges : yet, lest you should verify the *Latin* proverb, of *Incidit in Scyllam, cupiens vitare Charybdim*, and pass out of the frying-pan into the fire, I would have you remember to ride such horses with a crupper contrived very thick under the tail, and covered with some kind of fur ; otherwise he will gall there, and travel as uneasy as before. And with respect to easing his back, and keeping off warbles, it is best to lengthen and shorten the crupper often, and then the saddle will not heat alike the same places. And there is no false *Latin* in it, provided you order your saddle to be taken off the back every time you bait, especially if the horse is young, and unused to carry burdens : but then his back should be covered with a cloth, thinner or thicker, according to the season of the year, or otherwise he will be apt to take cold. Warbles, to prevent.

The cure of warbles is performed with the following mixture.

“ Take oil of turpentine and spirit of wine, of The cure.
“ each half an ounce ; and of tincture of myrrh
“ and aloes, two drachms. Mix.”

Let the places that are overheated be bathed with the above, morning and evening, and it will prevent warbles from becoming sitfasts, as they are termed, provided the affair is taken in time.

I had like to have forgot mentioning a nostrum, Strain of the
which was told me by Sir *William Parsons*, late a shoulder or
member back sine

member of parliament for the King's county in *Ireland*, when I was at his house a few years ago, and I am glad it now comes in my head.

Sir William
Parsons, his
nostrum for
a strain in
the back
sinew.

He said, that he had had frequent experience, that the common Barbadoes aloes, dissolved in as much hot water as would make it of the consistence of a plaister, was the best thing he ever found for a clap in the back sinews, or for a strain in the shoulder: and as he was a sort of quack, from his great age, and desire of being helpful to his neighbours, he had often, with surprising success, as he said, used the same sort of application to strained limbs in human bodies.

The way he used it, was to dissolve it in a little hot water, and spread it pretty thick on a strong rag, and bind it easily round the part; though I apprehend it will not stick so fast as required in the case of a shoulder-wrench in horses.

The same gentleman told me also, that he had a particular cure for the distemper termed a quincy in human bodies; which was this, *viz.*

Ditto, his
cure for the
quincy.

“ Take a good large piece of wheat bread
“ toast; dip it in brandy; and apply it to the
“ crown of the head new shaved; and let it lie on
“ till it dries.”

The bottom of a manchet cut about half an inch thick and toasted, will be most convenient for the purpose.

I have taken occasion to mention these things *en passant*, as the *Frenchman* says, by reason the aforesaid gentleman declared that he had had messengers come a great many miles to him for these two nostrums, but more particularly for the latter, which he insisted never had failed. But there are

Quincy, six
sorts menti-
oned by the
author.

so many different sorts of quincies, such as the watery quincy, the scirrhus quincy, the inflammatory quincy, the imposthumating quincy, the gangrenous quincy, and the convulsive quincy; all which require some difference in management: therefore the toast and brandy applied to the bare scalp, could only do service in the first sort, *viz.* a watery quincy; or that which is most common,

to wit, a catarrhus quincy, occasioned from catching cold, and from thence a defluxion of rheum upon the parotid glands and muscular parts, at the root of the tongue, such as those of the larynx and pharynx.

We may observe in the writings of this gentleman's countryman, viz. the Honourable Robert Boyle, Esq; mentioned, whose memory all mankind should reverence; I

say, the great Boyle gives us an account of several nostrums which he purchased from quacks and mountebanks that travelled round about the country. And indeed several of them are well worth our notice, seeing the compositions point out to us, that in general the regular physician is too sparing in his dose, where the distemper is stubborn, and the patient well able to bear a much stronger medicine than is commonly prescribed.

And this is the reason why Ward with his pill and drop does greater feats in the rheumatism, and some other painful distempers that usually afflict sound bodies, than a regularly-bred physician: for he that knows no danger, fears none; and therefore if a quack medicine cures two, and kills ten, the two cures will make a much greater noise than the ten that are killed, seeing a dead man tells no tales.

However, what I would infer from hence, is this, viz. Happy are the diseased who apply to Physicians, a physician of honesty, learning, and experience; very few that knows how and when to prescribe a medicine good ones, well adapted to the purpose. But *rara avis*, &c.

Therefore gruel, gruel, I say, and a warm lodging, will save more lives, than all the physicians, or men that by their standing in the universities are termed so, in the kingdom: for it is not every young fellow that lets his horse drink at Oxford or Cambridge, that is qualified for a physician, notwithstanding he may have hammered over Homer and Hesiod, the two contemporaries, as some say, together with the Latin poets of former ages. No; a true physician should be such a man as would take me

Swelled
neck from
bleeding.

me a full hour to describe. Therefore let me hasten to my intended purpose.

I have already told the reader, that warbles are cured by oil of turpentine, spirit of wine, and tincture of myrrh. I shall now proceed to an account of a swelled neck in horses that are unskilfully managed with respect to bleeding.

Capt. *Burdon*, whom I have often mentioned, because he has writ the best book of farriery then extant in so little compass; I say, this gentleman tells us, that we must not suffer a groom to strike his fleam twice into the vein, because it sometimes makes the neck swell, and is troublesome to cure. But the Captain knows nothing of the property of an animal fibre, nor of the analysis of the blood. If he did, he would have given us a more just account of things: for it is not the fleam that cuts through the vein, which brings on the swelling in the neck, as is commonly by the vulgar imagined; but the motion of the jaws, and muscular parts of the neck, together with hanging down the head, which occasions all the mischief. And therefore, as I have not long ago observed, *viz.* unless we know rightly the properties of an animal fibre, and the diseases incident to the weak and lax fibres, as well as the stiff and rigid, we know nothing; for which reason most men are unfit operators upon the animal machine.

I have hinted, that moving the jaws and hanging down the head, are the principal causes which make a horse's neck swell after bleeding: for these, together with the cold air, when he is turned out too soon after the operation, will very often occasion a flux of humours to the part, and consequently an inflammation. From whence, what subsequent evils may we not expect? such as the gangrene, &c.

The Captain also mentions extravasated blood left between the skin and the vein, and imagines that a horse's neck frequently swells from the pinning up of the skin unskilfully. But the real cause is as before observed. And although every horse,

horse, nay perhaps not one horse in fifty, has a swelled neck from bleeding, notwithstanding he is immediately turned out, or suffered to eat hay; yet that such things do happen, is too plain to be contradicted: and therefore I advise the reader to let his horse be kept warm, and not to give him any food for some hours after he is bled: and it would be better, if he was fed with cut grass or soft food for twenty four hours; in which time, I imagine, the divided fibres would be agglutinated and joined together again, and an inflammation prevented.

When a horse's neck happens to swell after bleeding, or from the negligence before spoken of, the best thing you can apply, is softening poultices, with a great deal of mucilaginous and greasy things in the composition; and such is the following, viz.

“ The mallow and marsh-mallow leaves picked
 “ clean from the stalks, of each ten handfuls;
 “ white-lily roots, half a pound; lin-seed and
 “ fenugreek-seed, of each two ounces; oint-
 “ ment of marsh-mallow, six ounces; and of
 “ hog's lard, half a pound: mix according to
 “ art.”

Cure of a
swelled neck

Poultis for
hard swell-
ings.

The leaves and roots should be boiled well, and the water pressed strongly from them; then beat them up to a pulp in a mortar; and let it stand till you have made a mucilage or jelly of the seeds, by bruising them well, and boiling them in a quart of water to a pint, which you must beat up with the former; and lastly, add the ointment and hog's lard; and when all are mixed thoroughly, it may be kept in a large bladder or pot for use.

This is an excellent cataplasm or poultis for all hard swellings whatever, either in man or beast, and will ease the pain and inflammation sooner than any thing else that I know of.

Good for
man and
beast.

It should be applied very thick all over the tumour, and warmed well before the fire, after it is spread upon a piece of flannel or the like; and af-

terwards rolled on according to the situation of the part affected, and renewed as it becomes dry: but while it is moist, it has virtue in it.

A poultis-
doctor men-
tioned.

I might here enter into a detail of the mechanical operation of an emollient poultis, such as the above, and shew the reader how the animal fibres are affected by warm greasy applications; but this would take me up too much time. However, thus far I cannot help hinting, *viz.* That I know an ignorant fellow in other respects, who makes a comfortable living in the way of surgery, and all he applies upon every occasion, is only a poultis much like what I have set down, excepting that it is not contrived so near the rules of pharmacy as this is. And really there are few cases, I mean recent cases in surgery, where a proper poultis will not be of great service by its kindly warmth, &c.

If the swelling of a horse's neck after bleeding will not disperse, but that it tends to suppuration, it should be opened when it is sufficiently soft, and the wound dressed with the green ointment prescribed *p.* 83. for healing wounds, and the poultis continued till all the hardness is dissolved.

Proper food
when the
neck is
swelled.

As to the food which a horse should eat during the cure of such swelling, it is best to give him mashes of malt, warm grains and warm water, with a good deal of oat-meal in it; and if he will eat a little hay, it should be sweet, soft meadow-hay, sprinkled with clear water, or cut grass in summer: and by this means the muscles which serve for mastication, will not be put to much stress in chewing; and of consequence a farther inflammation will be prevented.

Case, a
remarkable
one.

I saw a horse lately in a dismal condition from a swelling on his neck after bleeding, insomuch that he could not eat any thing for a week, and the tumour spread so amongst the glands or kernels behind his ear on the same side, that it threatened a suffocation. However, as the person that owned him was a friend and acquaintance of mine, he made so free as to ask me what the farrier should do in the case, because the doctor was for knocking the

the horse on the head as useless, and not to be recovered; yet he is now alive, and worth ten pounds I believe, by the method of proceeding above mentioned.

Scouring or purging upon the road is what is called *a washy-constituted horse*. And indeed these horses seldom bear hardship well, because the aliment passes off before it is thoroughly digested; which is a sign, that the fibres of the stomach and bowels are of the lax kind: therefore I would not recommend such a horse to any person that required one for hard service, although for moderate riding he might do well enough.

As to the cure of this affection of the guts, I apprehend that there is not any to be had; I mean, where it proceeds from the natural make or structure of the horse's fibres: yet it may be, in some sort, remedied, by keeping the horse to dry food, and less water than common. And I have known horses alter very much with respect to scouring on the road, when they have had hard meat, as we call it, for a long time. But then it must be a long time indeed, together with proper exercise, and a full allowance of oats and split beans, that will affect the thing: for it is not taking a horse of a lax constitution up from grass, and giving him a few sheaves of barley for a week or fortnight, that will render him fit for a *London* journey, (as we country-folks say); no, the better the grass is which he has been taken from for such an expedition, the more liable will he be to scour or purge. Therefore, by way of preventive physic, give him in his provender, as follows, *viz.*

“Take of the powder of the prickly Aleppo Powder a-
 “gall, (such as we make ink with), two ounces; gainst scour-
 “and of the powders of Japan earth and Lemnian ing or over-
 “earth, of each an ounce: mix, and keep in a purging.
 “bladder for use.”

The Japan earth, if true, is prepared at *Malabar* and *Pegu* in the *East Indies*, from nuts called by the natives *Areca nuts*, and may be afforded here at 3 *d.* per ounce; and the Lemnian earth is cheap-

er by much : so that the above quantity of powder may be prepared for about eight pence, and sufficient apothecary's profit got by it too.

The method of using it is, to sprinkle a little water upon the horse's oats, and rub them a while, and then throw upon the top of them about half a spoonful of the powder ; and if he is not a very squeamish-stomached horse, he will eat it as well as if nothing was upon his food.

He should have of the powder according to the degree of the disorder, otherwise you may make him too costive ; which will be as bad as the other extreme, provided the horse is of that sort of constitution which requires his being laxative rather than costive. What I mean is this, *viz.*

Animals differ as to a lax, or costive habit of body.

All animals whatsoever differ from one another in some particular discharges of the emunctories, or outlets of the body. Thus you see some men naturally of a lax, others of a costive habit ; some have sweaty feet, others perspire more about the head, &c. ; and thirdly, there are those which sweat little, yet make more urine, &c. ; and no doubt but it is the same in horses. Therefore too much of the aforesaid powder would do harm to a horse that is naturally of a loose habit of body. Secondly,

If a horse purge upon the road, occasioned from foul feeding, catching cold, &c. give him the following warming drink, *viz.*

Drink for a horse that scours from foul feeding.

“ Take an ounce of Venice treacle ; boil it in
 “ a quart of stale beer till a third is consumed ;
 “ then add half an ounce of true Armenian bole
 “ in powder ; and lastly, two ounces of common
 “ treacle, to make it more palatable ; and give
 “ it the horse all at once for a dose, and repeat it
 “ as necessity urges : and if it is yet too weak to
 “ overcome the distemper, you may add about a
 “ hundred drops of liquid laudanum, and half a gill
 “ of strong cinnamon-water ; but, in the last case,
 “ he should not travel for some days.”

These sort of horses, I mean horses that have naturally lax fibres, are very subject to swell in their

their legs: and therefore the vulgar expression says, they are full of humours; and consequently they must be purged, and purged, and better purged, till they are almost purged out of their lives; and their fibres, or what people call their *constitution*, is left much worse than it was before the learned doctor undertook the cure. This I have known many times to be the case, and have beheld the poor creatures with sorrow: but to offer any reason to those common brutes the common farriers, would be only losing one's time, because none of them understand common sense. Therefore I shall now say a word or two about the botts in horses.

Common
farriers
common
brutes.

Botts in horses are short thick grubs, that generally are scoured away by the spring-grass, and so turn to insects, and fly about.

Botts.

We reckon three sorts of worms in horses, as well as men, though they differ as to shape, &c.

Worms,
three sorts
of them.

Those in horses are under the denominations of *botts*, *worms*, and *truncheons*; and those in men are styled the *round worm*, the *broad worm with joints*, and the *small white worm* near the fundament, called *ascarides*, from the Greek of ἀσκήω, *moveo*, to move, by reason of the intolerable itching they cause about the seat.

There are also in horses a worm by some called *red-heads*; which are very dangerous, seeing they lie near the stomach of a horse, viz. in the gut next to it; which in man we call *duodenum*; though, in a horse, the three small guts which we call *duodenum*, *jejunum*, and *ileon*, are all in one, and it is mostly twenty six yards in length: I say, these sort of worms called *red-heads*, are situate so near the stomach in horses, that, when the beast dies of them, they immediately mount up into it: which is the reason that *Markham*, the old farrier, imagined they were bred there; although it is impossible for a worm of any sort almost, to live in that part of the body of an animal, while such animal is alive, especially while the digestive faculty is performed: though indeed I must confess, that when the lamp of life is nearly out, and that digestion is so cold

and

and weak, that it scarcely deserves to be called so; I say, in this case, worms may mount up into the stomach, and even eat holes through, as has been observed by cutting up colts, &c. which died of the red-heads.

There is scarce any animal, whether human or brute creature, whether in health or diseased, but what have worms in them either of one kind or other: and therefore the ingenious Mr *Pope* had great cause, in one of his remarkably-excellent poems, to compare every living creature to a worm; two lines of which, as I remember, run thus, *viz.*

*Misers are muck-worms, silk-worms beaux,
And death-watches physicians.*

Æthiops
mineral, its
preparation.

The best thing to destroy worms, is the æthiops mineral thus prepared.

“ Take four ounces of flour of brimstone, and
“ the like quantity of quick-silver; melt the brim-
“ stone slowly in an iron laddle, and stir in the
“ quick-silver over a gentle heat till it incorpo-
“ rates; then take it off, and stir in till almost
“ cold; afterwards grind them together in an iron
“ or stone mortar, (not brass), till they become a
“ black powder. Give the horse about as much
“ as will lie on a half-crown piece, twice a-day,
“ in his corn; which must be first wetted, to make
“ the powder stick to it.”

This is a very safe medicine (in a proper quantity) for man or beast; but must be continued a week or more.

Sometimes we give mercurius dulcis the night before we administer a dose of purging physic. For example:

“ Take a drachm of mercurius dulcis; mix it
“ in a piece of stiff paste, the bigness of a pigeon's
“ egg; and give it the horse in a horn of warm
“ ale, holding his head high, that he may not lose
“ any of it, by chewing it in his grinders; which
“ may be prevented, provided his head is kept
“ high, and a horn or two of ale given after it,
“ to

“ to wash it down ;” and next morning give him the following purge, *viz.*

“ Take of common aloes, one ounce ; cream
“ of tartar in powder, half an ounce ; salt of tar-
“ tar, two drachms ; jalop-root in fine powder,
“ three drachms ; oil of aniseed, forty drops ; sy-
“ rup of buckthorn, as much as is sufficient to
“ make the whole into a stiff mass ; to be formed
“ into two balls, and rolled in liquorish powder,
“ for a dose.”

A purge
against
worms.

The above purge may be repeated as well as the mercurius dulcis, according to the horse's strength, and fulness of flesh ; and always mind to give warm water and oat-meal while the medicine is in operation, and for twenty four hours afterwards.

It sometimes falls out, that a purge works too long ; and, in such case, the horse is in danger of a gangrene of the guts from the inflammation, oc-
casioned by the loss of the natural mucus, which should daub or smear over the ends of the small blood-vessels and nerves, spread all over the inside of the bowels : I say, by super-purgation, or over-purging, this mucous slimy substance like jelly, which nature designed as a safeguard to cover the nervous expansions, and capillary ramifications of the blood-vessels, is purged off, and consumed ; whereby the animal, whether man or horse, is in a dangerous condition, from a threatening gangrenous disposition of the guts, as aforesaid. And although the vulgar part of mankind, who judge more by their eyes and outward senses, than from any right reason, or sound principles ; I say, notwithstanding people seem pleased when a purge operates so briskly, as to scour off slime, &c. ; yet they little know, that such slime is by nature separated by the mucilaginous glands of the intestines, for the purposes aforesaid. However, if only a little of this mucous covering is discharged by the purge, it may do well. Therefore what I would be at, is only to caution mankind against being too fond of commending purges, on account of their being so irritating as to scour off a large quantity of slime, &c.

Superpurga-
tion, how to
cure it.

Mucus of
the bowels,
what.

&c.

&c. And when that happens to be the case, I would advise the following warming drink to be administered without delay ; because, when nature has got a bent or turn towards any discharge, let it be in whatsoever kind it will, as by stool, urine, &c. we shall find such discharge more difficult to curb, the longer we suffer its continuance before we give a proper medicine. Therefore let the following be given, provided the horse happens to purge above twelve hours from the time the purge begins to operate.

Cordial astringent drink.

“ Take half a pint of simple mint-water, (that
 “ has not been robbed of its oil, as is too com-
 “ mon with the apothecaries), and half a pint of
 “ small cinnamon-water, and add to these two
 “ ounces of Venice treacle, and an ounce and a
 “ half of true Armenian bole in powder, (which I
 “ own is hard to come at); boil these together
 “ for five or six minutes; and, after taking it from
 “ the fire, add about four ounces of strong cinna-
 “ mon-water, and three ounces of syrup of dried
 “ roses; and give it the horse milk-warm, and
 “ repeat it after forty eight hours, if occasion of-
 “ fers.”

I have mentioned true Armenian bole, (by the vulgar called *bole-armoniac*), because the sort sold in the shops comes mostly from *France*, and is not half so good as the other; therefore I shall give a description of the two sorts, seeing there is scarce any drug more in use, especially amongst farriers, than bole-armoniac. I say, then, that

Bole armoniac, the true sort described.

True bole of *Armenia* is produced in *Asia*, in the *Lesser Asia* I would say, belonging to the *Turks*; and is a ponderous, fat, brittle earth, of an astringent taste, and of a colour between red and yellow. Very little of the true bole of *Armenia* comes to us: therefore, if any gentleman has a desire to keep a few drugs genuine, he ought to send for them to the apothecaries hall in *London*; and, by employing a proper person, he may be sure of having what is right.

If it is true bole, it will be very easily reducible
 to

to a fine powder, or dissolved in any sort of liquor. This sort is without grit; and, when held in the mouth, seems to melt like butter, leaving an astringent taste upon the tongue.

The bole produced in *France*, is more inclinable to a yellow than a red colour, and is more full of sand and grit than the former; neither is it of that particular astringent taste upon the tongue. And thus far with respect to bole-armoniac. Therefore to proceed:

It is a good horse that never stumbles, is the old saying, and a very true one too. For, in my opinion, there is not one horse in a hundred fit for the road, although every dealer will pretend to tell you he has not a bad horse in his stable; and that every one he has, is as nimble as a cat, and will carry you as safe as if you were in an armed chair: yet in about ten miles riding in rough roads, his knees bewray his pedigree, and shew us, that his former master was only using words of course in the jockey's way, all the while he was commending the beast. However, when your horse happens to be too religiously inclined, and prays often, it is the best way to sell him to some country-farmer, that will put him into the trim which nature designed him for, *viz.* adding more weight to the stern; and of consequence, he will be less by the head, as the seamen term it. But, before you offer him to sale, you should cure his broken knees, by rubbing them often with the following ointment, *viz.*

Knees broken.

Horses, some of them not in right trim for the road.

“ Take two ounces of Flanders oil of bays;
“ half an ounce of honey; two drachms of Ve-
“ nice turpentine; and three drachms of quick-
“ silver.”

Ointment for the cure of broken knees.

Mix the quick-silver with the Venice turpentine exceeding well, by stirring it about a quarter of an hour; then add the oil and honey, which should also be well mixed before it is used.

Anoint the horse's knees morning and evening with it, and it will cause hair to grow sooner than any thing I ever tried; though indeed I must confess,

Mange, the
cure of it.

fels, that we are not acquainted with the reason why quick-silver should help in this case, and therefore we are apt to attribute it to the grease rather than to the other. However, thus far we are sure of, *viz.* that the above ointment will cure the mange or scab in horses, and kill all the lice, &c. provided about a pound and a half be prepared, and the horse rubbed well with it on a sunshiny day; and that the hair will come afterwards, sooner than by any other application whatsoever.

Rowelling,
often unnecessary.

It is a common thing amongst farriers, to rowel a horse upon account of strains and shoulder-slips. But it is an absurd notion, as I could easily make appear, would my time permit me. Neither can I expect to point out all the vulgar errors mankind are guilty of, in the compass of a pocket-book, for which this piece is designed. But so far I cannot help mentioning, *viz.* that for one right-founded notion, there are ten that are diametrically repugnant to right reason and truth, notwithstanding the latter number may be termed prevailing opinions.

Rowelling
unnecessary
in strains.

I say, then, that rowelling has not any thing to do in the cure of strained limbs, or strains in the fillets or couplings; seeing an overstretched fibre, or, in other words, a strain, which is nothing else, will be best cured by rest, and time proportionate to the degree of inflammation and heat in the affected part.

Bleeding
proper.

Bleeding, let it be performed in any part, may do service in strains, as it may help to ease the inflammation. But rowels, as before observed, are idle and foolish, and really unnecessary, except a horse is what we may truly call full of humours.

What I mean by a horse being full of humours, is such a one, whose texture of fibres is loose and flabby, and his digestion weaker than some of his brethren. This sort of constitution makes him more liable to catch cold, from whence all other disorders incident to animal bodies, may be produced. And besides this inconveniency, such horses are
more

more susceptible of contagious impressions, when the constitution of the air, as we call it, is diseased. What I mean by the constitution of the air, is this, *viz.* We may easily observe some seasons more healthful than others, although the whole number, to wit, spring, summer, autumn, and winter, have each of them an influence upon animal bodies, so as to produce this or that particular distemper, or at least a species of the disease peculiar to the season; which to distinguish rightly, is the true *je ne sçai-quoi*, or inexpressible quality, which every physician ought to be, though few are endued with. And indeed when we are qualified as much as mortal men can be, yet there are still many causes of distempers which we cannot trace out; but of necessity are obliged to resolve them into the *Θείον τι* of *Hippocrates*, or *divinum quid* of the *Latins*; that is, the energy of some supernatural unseen agent. Thus we see in July, August, and September, this present year, numbers of people, both old and young, in the neighbourhood of *Lancaster*, sorely affected with violent ophthalmias, or inflammation and swelling of the eyes; and in *Oxfordshire*, a pestilential fever amongst horses. Therefore, when distempers proceed in this manner, we call them *endemic*, or peculiar to certain parishes or counties: whereas the term *epidemic* is more extensive, and may be applied when any one distemper affects a whole side of a country. I say, when distempers come on in this sort, and affect animal bodies in general, in the same manner, whether men or horses, we cannot better explain the reason, than by telling the inquirer, that it is the natural constitution of the air that is unhealthy, and most liable to produce such disease.

Air, constitution of it, why so called.

Contagious distempers in *Lancashire* and *Oxfordshire*, in the year 1742.

Endemic and epidemic distempers distinguished.

I remember, when I was in *Paris* pursuing my studies, a gentleman published a treatise, wherein he undertook to make it appear, that most or all distempers proceeded from small insects, which floated about in the air, and were swallowed by animals in inspiration, and in their food. But this piece, although penned with a great deal of learning, is

Insects the cause of distempers, as some have imagined

liable

liable to several exceptions, as indeed most new-founded notions are, by reason the doctrine set forth in such new hypothesis is too far strained. However, we may say by this piece, as well as by many more of the like kind, what *Virgil* did, when he was asked what induced him to read the works of *Ennius Quintus*, the *Calabrian*, who taught *Cato* the *Censor Greek*, viz. I am picking up jewels from the dunghill of that ancient poet. So that we may observe, that few men, who write in a voluminous way, write so ill, but that we may pick out something of advantage from their labours; more especially, if the peruser has a head-piece so framed, that he can sift the grain from the chaff, the dross from the *Sterling* bullion. Farthermore,

Diseases amongst cattle more frequent in autumn than at other times.

It is observed in autumn, when there have been easterly winds; I mean, it is observed in such cases in *England*, and especially near the western shores, that diseases amongst cattle are more frequent than at other times. And this is attributed to the prodigious quantity of insects which are brought by those winds, either from the continent, or from the eastern parts of this island, or from both: for as these insects are (most of them) produced from eggs deposited in buds and blossoms of shrubs and trees; which eggs afterwards swell and elevate the place they are lodged in into a kind of blister, as may be seen in abundance upon the back side of the leaves of the poplar tree: I say, as these blisters break, the insects appear caterpillars, and afterwards are transformed to flies, and so are carried about by the winds, and spread over the face of the earth; whence they are many of them swallowed by animals in their food, and produce different distempers, according to the present state of the fluids contained in the animal that swallows them; but in general they produce worms in the guts.

I have said, that the horse which is of a loose and flabby disposition, is most subject to catch contagious distempers; and also, that he will be more liable to humours, (as they are called), than the horse of a firm make, and hardy disposition: therefore

fore such horses are least fit for service; because there is not any way, I mean, it is scarce worth while to prescribe a course of medicines to perform a cure that will be lasting: so that the best thing we can do to such horses, (if we have any that move well), is, to allow them good galloping-meat, (as we call it), and exercise; and by this method his fibres will, in six months time, become much more firm and elastic, which is what the common people term *hard flesh*; that is, best suited to perform long journies. *Lastly*, Rowelling is necessary, when we want to make revulsion; as, first, when the eyes are sore and inflamed, I would rowel them under the belly, or on the inside the thigh; yet never in the thick of the buttock, as I have seen some fools of farriers do, and thereby make a blemish that would continue during the horse's life.

Good galloping meat and exercise best for a horse of a loose and flabby-disposition.

Rowelling necessary when the eyes are sore and inflamed.

Rowelling is likewise necessary when the grease has been a long time about a horse's legs, and when the glands or kernels about the throat and ear-roots (as they are called) are swelled and tumified, as in the case of the strangles, &c.

Grease. Rowelling is likewise necessary when the disorder has been of long continuance.

Capt. *Burdon* has not mentioned the strangles any where in his little book, except under the article of a horse's being knotted between the jaws; although this distemper is the most common of any, and more especially to young horses that have been taken in, and used without caution, and turned out again to grass with the like carelessness, or lodged in cold, damp bedding, and open stables upon by-roads.

Strangles.

I have formerly hinted, that diseases are better prevented than cured; and my advice deserves to be kept in mind, though I am apprehensive it will be neglected by more men than it will be minded; because few have any right notions about horses; I mean, there are few people that have that value for good horses as they deserve: and therefore, notwithstanding a gentleman may truly be said to be well mounted, yet he is so careless of his horse, that he leaves him, when on a journey, to a more careless servant; whereby he runs the risk of (and often

Diseases better prevented than cured.

Caution against leaving the care of a good

horse to a careless servant.

Bleeding necessary when a horse has taken cold.

The quantity of blood necessary to be taken away, and from what part.

A drink proper for a sweat.

The cure.

often effectually gets) violent surfeits of cold, which produce the strangles, and, not unfrequently, the glanders; together with many more distempers too tedious for me at present to enumerate. However, the best way, no doubt, when a horse has taken cold, so as to threaten the glanders; or what we, in human bodies, call the squinancy or quincy, is to get him bled; because the obstructed perspirable matter retained in the blood, must of consequence cause a great tumult and hurry, and heighten the pulsations of the heart and arteries.

The quantity of blood should be proportioned to the horse's strength, and the degree of the disorder; and I think it best to bleed in the thigh-vein when a horse is affected about his head and throat.

The next thing to be observed is, to sweat him, with the following drink, *viz.*

“ Take Venice treacle, or of the electuary cal-
 “ led mithridate, half an ounce; and of lapis con-
 “ tra-yerva in powder, two drachms; mix these
 “ with three drachms of philonium Romanum,
 “ and a scruple of camphire powdered by the help
 “ of a few drops of sweet oil; and, lastly, mix all
 “ these with a pint of smart white-wine, or, for
 “ want of that, in a quart of stale beer, and give
 “ it the horse milk warm.”

He should be covered very well with a hood, a blanket, and thick rug, and well bedded, and not have any hay or corn for twelve hours, and then cooled by degrees.

This method, used in time, will prevent that troublesome and dangerous swelling in the throats of horses termed the *strangles*, and also guard the lungs against that sharp-tickling rheum which occasions their long and tedious husky dry coughs, which make the coat stare, and cause the belly to run in; so that a horse, by these colds, appears in the shape of what the farriers term a *chest-foundered horse*; and for the cure of which, grass in the spring is the best remedy, provided the horse is turned out with due care and caution.

When the cure of the strangles, by the first in-
 tenton,

tention, as the physicians term it, which method is just now pointed out to the reader; I say, when such method has been neglected, and that the glands or kernels of the throat, together with the muscles about the root of the tongue, are tumified and swelled; we have no better method than to give ease to the fibres upon the stretch, by the application of thick, warm, and very greasy poultices, such as I have mentioned (*p. 97.*) with its proper encomium; and, by this means, together with a good deal of time, and a great deal of patience, we may, with the least hazard, effect a cure, by bringing the tumour to suppuration, and then opening it in the softest part with a sharp bistory or penknife, and dressing the wound with the common green ointment, such as I have set down, *p. 83.*; and still to apply a softening poultis, till all the parts are restored to their natural state and condition.

Thick, warm, and very greasy poultices, and opening the tumour when brought to suppuration, and afterwards applying a softening poultis, is the best method when the cure of the strangles has been neglected.

It often happens, that in cases of swellings amongst the glandulous parts of the body, that after one place is opened, and the matter discharged, another place swells, and requires incision also, and so on for several times; but this is not to be wondered at, when we consider the natural constructure of the glands; which, in some measure, may be compared to a clue of thread; and this configuration must of consequence cause the fluid contained in the glands to circulate very flow: and from hence it is, that there is not that heat, in many cases, as there is in other swellings where the glands are less concerned; I mean, where the larger sort of glands are less concerned: for there is not a part of any animal, whether man, horse, or other creature, that we know of, but there are glands about it, either of the conglobate or conglomerate kind; yet, in the larger kind, such as are the parotid glands below the ears, those under the arm, and in the groin, as well as in the breasts, the circulation is so slow, the natural heat so languid, and the communication of each gland with another so separated, that swellings in these parts are of a tedious duration, and therefore require much patience, and

Reasons why it often happens, that after one place is opened, and the matter discharged, it swells, and requires to be opened in another.

greasy poultises, as aforesaid. Let me now proceed to an account of the gravel in the kidneys, a distemper which happens frequently to horses on a journey, although Capt. *Burdon* has not so much as once mentioned it, as I can find.

Gravel in the kidneys.

It may every day be observed, by even vulgar capacities, that a great quantity of gravel comes away with the piss of horses; and this is seen remain upon the pavement long after a horse has staled, and is what we may properly enough style *animal tartar*.

Animal tartar, what.

There is scarce any fluid without its tartar; even air has its nitro-aerial tartar; and all spring and river waters have it, though some contain more, some less, as I have shewn in my *Lithiasis Anglicana*, published not long before Mrs *Stephens* received the remarkable parliamentary reward of 5000*l.* for her discovery of the secret she had made use of as a dissolvent of the stone. See some further observation on the stone and gravel, and this medicine, at p. 127. &c.

Mrs *Stephens*, her medicine for the stone mentioned.

Water of the river *Seine* furs up the water-pipes with a stony substance.

I say, most waters have a good deal of tartar. And I remember to have seen the water-pipes in the streets of *Paris* furred up by its sticking in such abundance to the sides of the tubes, so that the workmen are obliged now and then to put down new ones in places upon this account; the water of the river *Seine* is of such a petrifying quality. And hence we may observe, how hastily, and without due consideration, the famous Galenical physician of the *Bath*, along with his milk and vegetable diet, recommends water-drinking to his patients, and, at the same time, neglects to shew them which sort of waters contain least of the stony concretion called *tartar*. Indeed he sometimes mentions chalky water and lime-stone water; yet in many of these springs there is abundance of tartar.

Water-drinking.

I remember very well, that it was taught us in the schools of physic at *Leyden*, by the late indefatigable Dr *Boerhaave*, viz. That there is hardly any such thing as may truly be called *pure water*; no not even rain water, the most nicely collected, although this must be allowed the purest water of any.

But

But I must desist from these too curious inquiries, and hasten to my purpose.

I say then, that what we call the *gravel* in men, as well as horses, is, strictly speaking, animal tartar: for as that sort of substance is produced in wine and vegetable juices when they are thoroughly fermented; so, in mankind, the tartar or gravel in the urine, is produced from a perfect concoction and digestion of the food and aliment taken into the stomach; or, in other words, from humours thoroughly digested: and therefore it is, that people of firm and rigid fibres, who have the digestive faculty strong, are most apt to have the gravel; more especially as they grow in years, when the mucous covering, which should naturally defend the fine membranous expansion of nerves, &c. spread over the pelvis of the kidneys, ureters, &c. is abraded and wore off. And if horses were to drink fermented liquors as much as mankind, they would, from their prone position of body, be more subject to the stone and gravel than we are; because, in such a situation, the tartar or salts in the urine would have more time to coalesce and unite. This is apparent, not only from natural reason, but also from experience; for we find on examination, that the soldiery, who constantly lie in barracks, have not by far so frequent complaints of this kind as other people: and the reason is, their beds are much more reclining than those generally in use among us; whereby urine does not stagnate so much in the pelvis of the kidneys, thereby to afford a better opportunity for the tartar or gravelly particles to join together to such a degree, as that their angles in passing along torment both man and beast in a violent manner.

Soldiers who lie in barracks not subject to the stone, and why.

When a horse happens to have the gravel, he will strive to piss often, and shew a sort of weakness in the fillets; and sometimes he cannot piss at all for many hours: and although it makes him very sick, yet he is not able to vomit, as is common to mankind, when the gravel is in the kidneys or ureters in its way to the bladder. And from hence,

Signs when a horse has the gravel.

I mean from the vomitings, it is erroneously styled the *windy gravel*; which appellation among the vulgar, and even among some whose education should teach them better, carries no signification along with it: and therefore they who use such terms must certainly be ignorant of the animal œconomy, and the meaning of the word *oscillation*, often applied to a kind of tremor of the nerves, when they are acted upon, or irritated by sharp-pointed gravelly particles in the kidneys and ureters. On which account, the nerves furnished by the plexus hepaticus and plexus splenicus of the sixth pair of the brain, which arise near the sides of the processus annularis; I say, whensoever the extremities of the membranous expansion of these nerves spread all over the inside of the kidneys and ureters, are irritated by pointed particles of matter, such as gravel, or the like, there is an oscillation, vibration, or undulation occasioned, and thence communicated to some of the branches of the eighth pair of nerves, styled *par vagum*, and so on, to the stomach; from whence the vomiting nausea and loathings proceed. This is the true doctrine, founded upon a knowledge of the animal œconomy; and without these lights, I mean, without a perfect knowledge of anatomy, human and comparative, as well as that of the animal œconomy, no man can truly account for the symptoms arising from the gravel, nor even sea-sickness, or loathings in breeding women, no more than for the headach subsequent to a debauch with spirituous liquors. Yet these, as well as almost all the symptoms attendant upon particular distempers, are easily understood and unfolded by the ingenious; but I am sorry to say it from my own observation, *viz.* that where one man enters into the practice of physic regularly and duly qualified for the purpose, an hundred jump headlong into it, without any better knowledge of anatomy than an apothecary's prentice, or even the common peasant, who imagines a man made like a gun, *viz.* that there is a hollow pipe from the head to the fundament, without any convolutions or windings; and hence he observes

Physicians,
few men
qualified for
the practice.

to you, that the fumes of the liquor, after an overdose of ale, &c. fly up to the brain, and so disorder the head. This, and this only, is the kind of reasoning with many who profess physic; but how far such people are wide of knowing nature, I must leave to some particular men to judge, and hasten to my subject.

I have already said that a horse cannot vomit; no, the spiral winding of the fibres in his gullet opposes such discharge; therefore you must judge of his being troubled with the gravel, from other signs, such as his making water with difficulty, voiding a little and often: and when this is the case, give him as follows, *viz.*

“ Take two ounces of my cordial-ball (*p. 51.*),
 “ which almost every apothecary now keeps; and
 “ add thereto two drachms of oil of turpentine,
 “ three drachms of sweet spirit of nitre, and the
 “ like quantity of tincture of salt of tartar, and,
 “ lastly, add an ounce and half of cold-drawn lin-
 “ seed-oil, and a quarter of a pound of treacle;
 “ and mix all in three pints of warm ale, and give
 “ it for a dose by little and little, and move him
 “ gently about for an hour or two.”

It may be proper to repeat the dose in forty eight hours if the symptoms continue, and to inject the following clyster, (or that at *p. 131.*), *viz.*

“ Take of mallow and marsh-mallow leaves, of
 “ each four handfuls, and of aniseed, caraway
 “ and cummin, of each two ounces, fenugreek-
 “ feed, three ounces; cut the leaves and bruise
 “ the seeds; after which boil them in four quarts
 “ of water very well, and strain out the liquor;
 “ to which put two ounces of electuary called ca-
 “ ryocostinum, one ounce of common turpentine
 “ dissolved in three egg-yolks, and an ounce of
 “ salt-petre in powder, and let it be injected very
 “ warm by the help of a large bladder and a long
 “ clyster-pipe, and the horse's tail tied down for a
 “ good while, to cause him to keep it till it has suf-
 “ ficiently softened the excrements, and commu-
 “ nicated

Gravel, the symptoms of it.

Marsh-mallow water a clyster for the gravel.

“ nicated its virtue by means of the absorbent vessels in the intestines.”

Horses
should not
be rid when
they have
the gravel in
the kidneys.

As there is a great weakness in the fillets when horses have the gravel in the kidneys, I do not think it at all proper to ride them, although it may be necessary to stir them about often; and as there is always a symptomatic fever where there is great pain, it may be requisite to bleed, and to give warm water rather than cold, and that too softened with a decoction of the marsh-mallow root, if the horse will drink it so, as I am apt to think he will, provided it be scarcely lukewarm.

Oiling the fillets well with common linseed-oil warm, will be proper to relax the muscular parts, and give liberty for the gravel to pass along the ureters to the bladder.

If the horse refuses the warm water with marsh-mallow root, you may put a little oat-meal to it, and it will entice him to drink it.

There are some countries where the springs produce such hard water, (as it is called), that the rivers and rivulets fed by them, are of a petrifying nature; and the horses bred upon such grounds, are observed more liable to gravelly disorders.

It is likewise observed, that the negroes in *Africa* are less subject to gravelly concretions than the *Europeans*; and this, no doubt, proceeds from the pureness of their waters, which, in general, are found to be the lightest in the known world.

Waters that
do not petri-
fy.

The waters in *England* least subject to fur teakettles with stone, are, as I remember, those conveyed in a pipe for the benefit of the inhabitants of *Hodsdon* in *Hertfordshire*, also that of *Haiveringhill* in *Essex*, likewise that which supplies *Hampton-court*, and at the fountain-head at Mr *Harvey's* of *Comb*, and the waters of *North-Holmes* and in *Old-Park*, which supply the Dean, Prebendaries, and other inhabitants of the city of *Canterbury*; I say, these waters contain little, and indeed some of them produce no stony incrustations; for I have observed at a coffeehouse at *Hodsdon* aforesaid, that no such thing adhered to the sides of a large kettle that had stood over

over the fire for fourteen years, without once being scraped or cleaned to free it from such hard substances. And no doubt but there are many more waters in *England, Scotland, and Wales*, which are mostly free from stony particles: and these springs cannot be better discovered than by inspecting the old tea-kettles in use in the neighbourhood of each place; for it is beyond all doubt, that both men and horses, through length of time, suffer by drinking such waters as contain much of the stony petrifying quality I have been speaking of.

A horse upon a journey, when he has been strained in the fillets, will piss bloody water, or at least his piss will be of the colour of moss-water; and the same symptom will also happen in cases of the gravel, where the pointed angles of the small stones in passing along, excoriate the fine membrane that covers the extremities of the evanescent arteries and capillary veins, so that the blood is spued out, and mixed with the urine. Bloody water.

The cure consists in the marsh-mallow water as above directed, and the following ball, *viz.* The cure.

“ Take of the common cordial-ball (*p. 51.*)
 “ two ounces, and mix with it of the best dragon’s
 “ blood, in powder, three drachms; dissolve these
 “ in two quarts of pretty strong lime-water; then
 “ boil it up with two ounces of gum-arabic, and
 “ of nettle juice fresh gathered, four ounces, also
 “ half an ounce of crude alum in powder, and
 “ three ounces of diacodium; and strain out for
 “ use.”

The lime-water is thus prepared, *viz.*

Take about a pound and half of quick-lime, or lime that is not flaked, and pour upon it in a glazed pot, about a gallon of boiling water, and let it stand twelve hours to settle; after which you may decant off the top fine and clear for the aforesaid purposes: but if you want it soon, you may mostly get it from any apothecary of business; for these generally have it ready made, as it is often required in the physical way, though theirs is not quite Lime-water, how prepared.

quite so full of the salts of the lime as what I have here prescribed.

The above decoction may serve for four doses, to be given every twelve hours milk-warm.

Surfeit.

A surfeit is no more than an over-heating, and afterwards cooling too fast, whereby a sudden tumult in the blood and juices is occasioned; therefore this disorder may, properly enough, be referred to the class of coughs or cold (*p. 72. &c.*), of which I have sufficiently treated before; and if the grease happens to come on after a surfeit, it may be cured as before described under that head (*p. 50.*). Yet there are many horses whose coats will stare and stand on end do what you will with them, unless we were to keep them wholly at galloping-meat, and exercise accordingly; so that every horse whose coat stares, (unless he be hide-bound withal), must not be therefore deemed a surfeited horse.

Cures often attributed to wrong agents.

What I have before observed (*p. 48.*) with respect to cuts or wounds, either upon the fleshy parts, or those that are tendinous or sinewy, I heartily wish may be religiously and strictly minded: for, as in the present case, *viz.* surfeits, it often happens that the cure is attributed to wrong agents; so in cuts, bruises, and wounds, I have as often laughed in my sleeve to see a foolish fellow ascribe the cure to his never-failing ointment, balsam, or wound-water, which had scarce any thing to do in the affair.

Rest and time cure green wounds.

What I would be at is this, *viz.* So soon as the fibres of an animal body are divided, or, in plainer *English*, so soon as a wound is received, or a bruise is given to either man or horse upon any of the parts which are required to move much, or sustain weight; in such cases I insist upon it, that rest and time will do more, than all the famed balsams, ointments, or tinctures, in the universe, let them be ever so dignified or distinguished with pompous titles of professed cures performed by them in an hour's time, &c. &c. &c.

I have said rest and time; but the rest I mean, is keeping the wounded limb in a horizontal posture; otherwise the part will inflame, swell, and tend to

a mortification ; of which dire evil the first stage is only a slight preternatural heat upon the part : and this may be prevented, if the horse is forced down, and kept so till the wound is digested a little, and the anguish abated. Neither indeed are all horses alike with respect to bearing such misfortunes : for these differ as much as mankind with respect to their texture of fibres, some answering to the first, others to the fourth string of a fiddle ; or, in other words, some have more delicate and tender fibres than others ; and therefore these will be more liable to hazards upon any bruise or wound : and although every man does not lose his life after unskilful bleeding in the arm, and wrong management afterwards ; yet I have seen some that have died upon such accounts, nay, even from the prick of a thorn upon a joint, and stirring the limb too soon : so that I say, too much caution cannot be taken when the fibres, especially near the larger tendons, are divided, or severely bruised or pricked ; and this is best done, by placing the wounded part so as that the blood-vessels may be in a horizontal situation, and afterwards any sort of warm greasy poultis tied upon it will do to relax the fibres, and prevent inflammation ; only minding to smear over the wound with the common green ointment, called *unguentum viride*, of the shops, and a piece of soft tow over it.

I have run into this digression upon wounds and bruises, fearing lest a story (though a good one) when told only once over, might be lost ; therefore, reader, be careful and circumspect in studying the doctrine I have inculcated, and then thou needest not be beholden to the common farrier for his advice, how to cure thy horse that has got a cut or bruise upon his leg, &c.

The reader will think me rambling, I suppose, by flying off from my account of a surfeit in horses to that of wounds and bruises ; but I do it only to shew that farriers will have us believe their applications perform cures, when rest and time are the main agents ; and that surfeits may also be cured without any medicines besides the common cordial-ball,

Surfeits require time.

ball, provided the horse be taken care of by a proper and sober groom, who places more confidence in a warm wide stall, clean bedding and feeding, together with brisk and laborious dressing and moderate exercise, than in all the whole farriage of ill-contrived compositions of the farriers and dabblers in the art of physick.

Malanders. The malanders are certain chops or cracks in the bend of the knees at the upper end of the back-sinews, occasioned from a sharp, hot humour, but mostly from slothfulness, and want of care.

The cure consists in clipping off the hair, and anointing the sores night and morning with the following ointment, *viz.*

Ointment. “Take Flanders oil of bays, three ounces;
“white vitriol burnt and powdered, three drachms;
“quicksilver, half an ounce; oil of turpentine,
“two drachms. Mix.”

Stir the quicksilver for half an hour with the oil of bays and oil of turpentine, and then add the white vitriol.

There is also an excellent preparation for the purpose, made with lapis calaminaris, *viz.*

“Take four ounces of fresh butter, and stir in-
“to it, when melted, three ounces of lapis cala-
“minaris, finely levigated or powdered, and keep
“it stirring till it is so cold, as that the powder
“will not fall to the bottom.”

With this ointment let the places be rubbed morning and evening for some time, after cutting away the hair, and washing with warm water.

Malanders Some horses are so subject to the malanders, that
cause a horse it is hard to keep them free; and really they are
to stumble, often so inveterate, and the humour so sharp and
and why. corrosive, that the sinew is contracted, and the horse
steps short and stumbles. This happens mostly to
old horses that have rough long hair in the bend of
the knee; and as these sores are situate upon a joint
where there is much motion, they are hard to heal,
as before observed, under the head of wounds in
general. However, there is nothing better in these
cases, than ointments which contain ingredients of

a drying virtue, such as the common white ointment of the shops, mixed with a little foot, if the horse is black, or with bole-armoniac, if he is a bay; just so as to hinder the thing from being too much seen, while one mounts in a strange place: for nothing takes the eye more (unless it is a fine woman) than a fine horse, free from blemish, that moves justly and truly upon his limbs, from the door of the inn where one has lodged; because every fanterer in the street has his observation to make on this account; insomuch, that many times when I have had horses that lingered or halted a little at the first setting out, I have been so ashamed to mount them in strange places amongst gentlemen, that I have ordered them to be warmed, by moving them about for a quarter of an hour beforehand, in order to make them step off handsomely from the inn.

White ointment good in the malanders.

Capt. *Burdon* has taught us how to dock a horse with the greatest sagacity: but as this operation is very seldom performed upon the road, I shall not trouble the reader with an account of it; therefore shall only say a word or two about nicking a horse's tail, to make him carry it well.

Every farrier and experienced groom (as we ironically call them) will tell you, they can cut a horse's tail to perfection; and yet we often see the poor creatures lose their lives by the inflammation, heat, and swelling of the parts about the operation. This I have several times been an eye-witness of. Neither can any method or medicine prevent the disaster, when once the affair is excessive; I mean, when the heat and inflammation is violent, and spreads itself into the rectum, or arse-gut, &c.

Nicking the tail, the best manner of doing it.

It is not a very easy matter for a farrier to cut a horse's tail, so as that he will afterwards carry it well. What I mean by carrying it well, is carrying it so as that a pretty good judge shall not know whether it is not natural. And for this end he must carry it equally from his body, and not cock up the point like a squirrel, as many do that have been cut, leaving the middle of the dock lower than any

part else : in order to remedy which, the farrier, or other operator, will presently tell you, he can loosen the sinews near the horse's body, and make him carry a more equal tail. But it is here that the greatest hazard in nicking lies ; for if he happens to give the cross cut deep, and near the fundament, there is great reason to suspect the horse's life is in danger : and it is very odd to observe, that some horses get over such a nicking pretty easy ; whereas others, that I have thought were not cut so deep, nor so near the body, have lingered a few days, and then died. I say, this is difficult to determine, *viz.* whether it is want of cure in preventing the cold air from hurting the wound, or if it is the idiosyncrasy, or peculiar temperament and disposition of one horse from another, which makes the difference. However, it is best not to run any great hazards ; seeing we may easily escape them, and yet make a horse carry his tail well. And the following method, in my opinion and experience, is best, *viz.*

Cutting the tail, the method of doing it to the best advantage.

Let the horse be carefully cast or thrown down upon straw or soft ground, and his feet fastened well, and a good heavy fellow ordered to hold down his head, by kneeling upon his mane, &c. Then take one of the two irons in readiness, in a chafing-dish of hot coals, and cut through the sinews on each side the dock, almost, though not quite to the middle ; for in that place there lies a considerable artery, which there is no occasion to sever ; because it is the strength of the sinews under the tail, that are two strong for those above, which hinders many horses from setting their tails well ; and when these are properly loosened, the business is done.

Cutting-irons, the shape of them.

I say, your cut on each side upon the sinews should be about an inch and half from the setting on of the tail, and pretty deep, and the breadth of your cutting-iron should be more or less, according to the thickness of the horse's rump ; for some fine-bred horses have very small and slender docks, and therefore require a narrower iron : so that it is best to have the iron from three quarters of

of an inch to an inch and half broad, if you would have what is necessary on these occasions.

I have observed, that when the cross cut is made deep, and near the body, as is the method with many who pretend to set tails, the parts often swell exceedingly, and threaten, if not effectually acquire, a mortified state, that terminates in the death of the poor creature. And how, in the name of goodness, should it be otherwise, while we suffer a parcel of blundering fellows, to cut, mangle, and torment our horses, without being acquainted with the difference of an artery from a vein, a nerve from a tendon, &c. setting aside all the other necessary qualifications requisite to furnish out an expert and skilful leech? But to return:

When you have finished the cut near the horse's body on each side the tail, through the whole breadth of the strong sinews, almost, but not quite to the middle of the dock, and well up towards the hair, then you may make a second burning on each side, as before, and at about two inches from the other; after which you may cut quite across the tail, for there is no danger four inches from the body.

When all the cuts are made; but the more there are, the more equal will the horse carry, unless his tail is too long, in which case he should lose a joint or two as you see necessary; I say, when you have made as many wounds as necessary, you should work the tail back and forward, to make the muscular parts and sinews which are cut shew themselves, in order to be dissected or separated from the rest, which you cannot so well come at; and also, in order to hinder the uniting again of the tendons and muscles which are severed; for if this should happen without a deal of new flesh putting out, the horse would be little the better for nicking. And, for this reason, it is very necessary to pulley up the tail during the time of healing the wounds; and the time of using the pulley should be about three or four days after the operation; and the sores dressed with a bunch of feathers dipped in warm ointment, such as the following, twice a-day, which will prevent,

vent, what the vulgar term, festering up into the horse's body.

Ointment to be used after nicking the tail.

“ Take rosin and Burgundy pitch, of each two ounces ; common turpentine, three ounces ; hogs lard, purified from salt, &c. twelve ounces ; French verdigrease in fine powder, half an ounce ; mix, and make an ointment, by adding the verdigrease last of all, when the rest is cooled a little off the fire, and stirring the same in by degrees, till the ointment is almost as thick as treacle, and that the powder cannot settle to the bottom.”

This is a good wound-ointment either for man or beast, excepting that the quantity of verdigrease, as here ordered, is too much for those sort of wounds that are free from fungous or spongy proud flesh : yet as there are not many of that kind, and as it is best to hinder, in some measure, the too quick granulation, or budding forth of new flesh at the extremities of the evanescent arteries, &c. it is better to use an ointment that is more deterfive than epulotic ; or, to speak more intelligibly, it is better to use a sharp ointment, than a greasy one, seeing the sides of all wounds should be kept as low as the new skin that generates about them.

Fever.

If your horse has a fever, which may be known from the too exalted motion of his heart, bleed him according to his strength, and the violence of the symptoms, (see *p. 74.*) ; and, next day, give him as follows, *viz.*

Bolus for a fever, to be mixed in beer.

“ Take Venice treacle, half an ounce ; snake-root in fine powder, two drachms ; diaphoretic antimony, and English saffron in powder, of each one drachm ; syrup of saffron, as much as necessary, to make it of the consistence of a bolus ; which you may mix in a quart of warm small beer, and some common treacle, and give it your horse for a dose ; and repeat it every eight or ten hours till sweat is procured.”

It should be assisted in its operation with a thick warm rug or the like, and let him have lukewarm water with oat-meal offered him very often ; and if he will drink it with a mixture of spirit of nitre, I mean,

mean, sweet spirit of nitre, you may give him in the proportion of half an ounce to three gallons of water.

It is not very easy to know when a horse sweats ^{Sweating,} moderately, because of the hair upon his body. ^{the best cure} However, if the pores are kept open by a kindly ^{in most} warmth, and a higher perspiration than ordinary ^{fevers.} only occasioned, it will be a great means of carrying off the feverish heat in his blood: for there is no evacuation, except vomiting, and that you cannot well bring a horse to; I say, there is not any evacuation better adapted to the cure of fevers of all kinds, whether in human or brute creatures, than a kindly sweat, and to keep the body of an equable warmth, according as the symptoms indicate: though indeed I must confess, that, in human bodies, a lenient easy purgative, now and then, procures relief. Yet this method cannot be pursued in horses, by reason of the length of the alimentary tube, or guts from the stomach, or rather from the root of the tongue to the anus, or fundament: for this, together with the rigid constructure of the fibres which compose the body of a horse, require such drastic or strong purgative medicines, that fuel would be added to the flame, and the fever increased; seeing no purging medicine, that carries its operation farther than the *primæ viæ*, or first passages, such as the stomach and bowels, is safe in these cases, for reasons already cited: and therefore a proper perspiration, or, if the symptoms be urgent, a sweating proportionable to the height of the fever, along with plentiful dilution, such as water and oat-meal, with sweet spirit of nitre, with which it is before ordered to be impregnated; I say, this method in a horse, as well as in almost all kinds of fevers in mankind, is most effectual. And therefore blistering, cupping, &c. have more of ^{Common} pomp and shew in these cases, and serve more to ^{methods ex-} amuse the vulgar, and please the outward senses, ^{ploded.} than any thing else: and yet there are some, nay, I am sorry to say it, there are many physicians in the world, who split hairs to so great wonder, that

unless bleeding, cupping, and blistering, be used in fevers, the farce is never well acted; and so prone are we to the pleasure of being deceived, and to pay more for a cure after a good smarting bout, and running the gauntlet through the faculty of physicians and their attendants, that we think our money ill bestowed, if we are cured in too easy a way; much like the woman we are told of, who grumbled to pay a good artist six pence for pulling her a tooth out easy, because she had, in other like cases, been haled round and round the shop for a groat. So that I say, it is not consistent with worldly policy to perform cures without giving our patients some trouble; I mean some particular sort of patients, such as that unless they observe an air of *sapiens* in the Don, and are told that the moon is made of green cheese, they look upon him as a silly illiterate fellow, that cures folks by halves.

I could tell a very merry story agreeable to the doctrine I am upon, would my time permit, in relation to a case I was concerned in along with two others of the fraternity; where, before I could get quit of these hangers-on, who were continually arguing about deliriums, imperfect crisis, &c. apparent in the urine of a gentleman that is truly worthy of the high trust lately reposed in him by the King; I say, I was, in fact, obliged secretly to piss in the urinal myself to rid the room of the two doctors, who, I was satisfied, were running the risk of my good friend's life with their bolus's, draughts, &c. &c. &c.: neither was I able, by any argument, to persuade these two knowing men, that the crude thin urine rendered by our patient, was occasioned from the salts of the French flies, as they are called, which had got into his blood, from three large blister-plasters they insisted upon being applied to his neck and arms.

Case, a particular merry one.

I would here beg leave to be understood, that the above said gentleman was not himself one of those sort of persons I have hinted at in the preceding paragraph: no, it was the two doctors that were doing something extraordinary in order for a good

good incrementum of fees when they found a wealthy patient; but as soon as I had got my water into the urinal, these practisers quickly spied the perfect crisis and resolution of the distemper, and were unanimous in opinion, that the patient's pulse, together with all the symptoms, were of a piece with the sound urine produced. Therefore, O ye sons of *Æsculapius*! be not too presuming and arrogant in your profession, seeing you may be liable to be censured in like manner with the two I am speaking of; but study nature attentively, by passing regularly and circumspectly through the sciences I have several times mentioned; and this, together with a true knowledge of the parts of the mechanical machine you are to perform upon, will enable you to justify your practice before any assembly of learned men in this world; which is all that an honest man can wish or hope for as a physician. Now to return:

I have already spoken of gravel in the kidneys, (p. 112. 113.), and shall now say a word or two more, seeing it is a very common disorder upon a journey, but more especially upon long journies, when a horse is strained and heated above his strength. And therefore, first, if it was not for the food which horses live upon, they would, most of them, suffer extremely from the gravel; because their prone posture of body hinders the pifs, or serous and thin parts of the blood, from passing so quickly and easily off by the kidneys and ureters, as would otherwise happen if the creature were erect; for the salts of the urine, or what we term the animal tartar, has more time in the pelvis of the kidneys, &c. to coalesce and come together, so as to form gravel, or fabulous concretions.

If any person observe where a horse has staled, it may easily be discovered, when the pavement is dried a little, that the pifs of this animal is full of tartar, which shews itself in a kind of brown powder; and therefore, as I have already observed, if horses were to drink fermented liquors, as wines, &c. which contain a deal of tartar, they would, from their situation of body, be more subject than mankind

Gravel in the kidneys.

Animal tartar, what.

kind to breed the stone. And moreover, as before observed, (*p.* 113.), the soldiery who lie in barracks, are not so liable to the stone and gravel as other men: which observation is mentioned by that very ingenious inquirer into nature, *Stephen Hales*, D. D.; and his reason is good, *viz.* the beds they lie on are very much upon the recline; so that their heads are higher than ours in a common way, which makes the urine pass quicker into the bladder by its own weight: and as larger particles of gravel, or what the chymical philosophers style animal tartar, will pass through the canal of the urethra or piss-pipe from the bladder outward, than can possibly through those of the ureters from the kidneys to the bladder; for this reason I say it is, that small stones in the first, are much more dangerous than large ones in the latter.

I have fully shewn, in a small treatise published in the year 1739, intituled, *Lithiasis Anglicana; or, A philosophical inquiry into the nature and origin of the stone and gravel in human bodies*, that most or all fluids whatsoever contain tartar, of one kind or other, and that even air itself has its peculiar tartar: but as animal tartar, or what is vulgarly called by the name of the *gravel*, is the point at present in question, I shall keep to the text. Therefore, first, I say,

Mrs Stephens's medicines mentioned.

It is not yet made appear, notwithstanding 5000*l.* has been paid Mrs *Stephens* for her dissolvent of the stone, that her medicines will perform what she and some others would have us believe: for, on the contrary, I can testify, that many persons in my neighbourhood have used large quantities of those medicines, and that too for a long time together, without any benefit; although I must confess, that where the stone happens to be of a soft porous nature, the medicines bid fair for a cure. And as none of us can form a true prognostic as to the softness or hardness of the stone in a person's bladder, it may be advisable to take of those medicines for some time; and by the fragments which frequently fall off the stone, we can easily tell of what consistence

sistence the rest is ; which if it proves of the harder kind, I am sure the patient had better run the risk of a recovery, by undergoing the operation, than fruitlessly swallow down the nauseously lixivious and greasy medicines, as directed by the said Mrs Stephens.

I have cut a great many for the stone in the course of my practice, and with as much success, I believe, as the rest of my brethren, and have seen scores of both sexes eased of the burden I am speaking of at the *Hotel de Dieu* at *Paris* ; and have been surprised to see such difference in the shape and hardness of the stones, insomuch that while some are as soft as rotten-stone, others are as hard as a brown pebble : and one I remember to have seen taken from a man, that had excrescences upon it directly like those we observe on muscle-shells ; this was of an exceeding firm and hard nature ; however, the poor man recovered to admiration. But for a true specimen on nature's operations, with respect to the generation of animal tartar, I mean, with respect to the consistence, shape, &c. of stones in the bladder ; let any person who has opportunity view the large number of all sizes which are kept in a box with an iron lattice over it at the hospital in *Paris* called *La charité*, where the monks are the surgeons, and I think very cruel ones as any I have ever beheld. But to the point :

If your horse has the gravel in his kidneys, ureters, or bladder, he will seem weak in his fillets, and piss often, and with difficulty, and but a little at a time ; and I have seen horses, which could not stale a drop for two days or longer, and all the time tumble and grone excessively. If this is the case, I say, the best method will be as follows, viz.

- “ Take one ounce and a half of my cordial ball, Ball for the
- “ (p. 51.), half an ounce of soap of tartar, and gravel.
- “ one drachm of Matthew's pill, or a drachm and
- “ half, if the horse is lusty and strong ; beat these
- “ well together, and make it up into two balls
- “ with liquorish powder, and give it for a dose
- “ out

“ out of a horn with warm stale beer and a little
“ treacle.”

The medicine may be repeated once in twenty four hours, if the symptoms are urgent; and warm water, or rather water that is lukewarm, should be offered him every two or three hours; for this ball will occasion thirst: and it is so much the better for it, because drinking large quantities is not improper in cases of the gravel in the kidneys or ureters of man or beast; although we find in general, that people afflicted with this disorder are afraid of drinking, apprehending that it will occasion more pain, &c.

I might here enter into a philosophical account of the operation of the above medicines, and shew the reader how an opiate, as in the Matthew's pill, may become a diuretic, by causing an universal relaxation of the solids, occasioned through the pleasant titillation it gives to the nerves in the stomach, &c.: but this would appear foreign to my present purpose; notwithstanding it is an easy task to perform, as well with respect to opiates, as all other drugs and medicines made use of in our present materia medica, which, it must be owned, are not a few: I mean, it is an easy task to a person of a liberal education, endued with common sense, a thing which all pretend to, yet few are masters of, to shew the true reasons why this or that medicine operates by vomit, stool, urine, sweat, &c. But this doctrine no person has so fully pointed out to us as my preceptor, the most indefatigable and truly learned *Herman Boerhaave*, late Professor at *Leyden*, in his book *De viribus medicamentorum*; which piece, I do aver it, unless well understood by the professors of physic, they do not deserve the honourable name of *physicians*. But to return to the gravel in the kidneys, &c. of horses:

If the horse continues long in pain, and strives to stale often, he should have the following clyster injected very warm through a long pipe, *viz.*

“ Take of the leaves of mallow and marsh-mal-
“ low, of each three handfuls; pellitory of the
“ wall,

Professor
Boerhaave
mentioned.

“ wall, two handfals; juniper-berries bruised, Second cly-
 “ two ounces; aniseed and grains of paradise ster for the
 “ bruised, of each half an ounce; boil these in gravel.
 “ four quarts of water to two; then strain, and
 “ add of electuary called *caryocostinum*, otherwise
 “ called the *clove and costus electuary*, one ounce;
 “ and of common salt and fresh butter, (or oil of
 “ any sort), of each two ounces; mix, and inject
 “ as aforesaid, as warm as you suppose the horse
 “ may bear it, and tie down the tail a good while
 “ afterwards.” A drink for the gravel, and the
 former clyster, are at p. 000.

It will be proper to stir the horse about pretty often, and to offer him lukewarm water with oatmeal, and about half an ounce of sweet spirit of nitre, mixed in a common pail full of water; or to impregnate the water with such spirit, as strong as the horse will drink it.

This method, with a little patience, will free your horse from that fabulous matter called the *gravel*, but more properly styled a *superabounding animal tartar*.

We find it much more easy, as I have often hinted, to prevent, than cure distempers; and it would be therefore proper, provided the gravel was more common in horses than it is, to give the horse a strong solution of Alicant soap and egg-shell lime now and then, to dissolve and carry off such calculous concretions in the urine of animals. And for this end the following composition will be proper, viz.

“ Take two ounces of Alicant soap, slice it small,
 “ and dissolve it in a quart of soft water; then add
 “ half an ounce of egg-shell lime, and about three
 “ ounces of honey; and give it the horse out of a
 “ horn, milk warm, twice a-week for a month;
 “ and every three months repeat it, if any signs of
 “ gravel appear.”

The egg-shell lime and Alicant soap are the basis or main ingredients in the medicines called *Mrs Stephens's*, for dissolving the stone in human bodies; and the reason why Alicant soap is preferable to that of

Monfieur
Geoffroy.
mentioned.

of Caſtile, is, becauſe it is prepared from the aſhes of kelp or ſea-tangle, that contains a great deal of marine ſalt, as obſerved by the very ingenious M. *Geoffroy*, profeſſor of chymiſtry at the *Royal gardens* in *Paris*.

A caſe.

There is a wide difference between the gravel and the ſtone; and many people are ſaid to be cured of the ſtone, by the uſe of Mrs *Stephens's* medicines; whereas the diſtemper was only the red gravel, that ſcarce ever turns to a large ſtone. And ſo prone are we to ſay ſuch or ſuch a thing has cured us of this or that diſtemper before we weigh the difference, that I know a merchant, in all probability, near his exit, by taking the aforeſaid medicines; and yet about three years ago he ſigned his name among the reſt, that he was cured by the ſaid Mrs *Stephens* of the ſtone.

This perſon was troubled with a large and very hard ſtone in his bladder; and took abundance of the medicines, for the diſcovery of which Mrs *Stephens* received 5000 l.; but the fragments that came away were ſo ſharp-pointed and hard, that he parted with large quantities of blood with his urine; by which he at laſt became dropſical, and he is now incurable, through his own obſtinate perſiſting in the continued uſe of thoſe medicines.

This, and many other the like inſtances, I could bring where the ſtones were of ſo hard a nature, as that Mrs *Stephens's* medicines would ſooner kill the patient, than entirely diſſolve the concretion. However, as I have obſerved before, it is proper to try the medicines for ſome time, to know of what firmneſs the ſtone is; provided we have firſt aſſured ourſelves, from a proper trial by the hand of an able ſurgeon, that there really is a ſtone in the bladder; or that we are, from the advice of ſuch practitioner, convinced that there is one in the kidney: I ſay, when we are quite ſure of this, we ſhould enter upon a courſe of the aforeſaid medicines; and if we find the ſtone of a harder ſort than is common, by the pieces that come away, which are browniſh, and poliſhed oftentimes; when this is ſo, I am convinced,

vinced, that the patient had much better hazard the operation of cutting, than go on in the use of those medicines; or else suffer the stone to remain as round as possible, rather than turn it into a rough and angular body, without being able to bring it all away: which would be morally impossible by such medicines, or any other; because several stones are so hard, that the medicines are not able, even though used twenty years, to dissolve them entirely.

There is one particular benefit accrues from the use of Mrs *Stephens's* medicines, besides that of dissolving soft stones in the kidneys and bladder; and that is, their curing the jaundice, or other cachexy of the like nature; more especially, where the body is of a leucophlegmatic or watry, rather than a hectic or dry state; for the soapy and lixivious tribe avail most strongly in these cases. And, in my opinion, it would be good to give a horse now and then such a medicine of soap and egg-shell lime as before prescribed, notwithstanding his illness might not prove the gravel; for it will prevent or cure the yellows, and thence hinder the staggers, far-
cy, &c. And indeed those medicines are better ad-
apted to horses than men; because most horses, from their plain, simple living, are rather of a moist than dry constitution: in which last state of the body all lixivious salts do harm, and are in some measure poisonous; as is observed by that great searcher after truth, viz. the incomparable *Boerhaave*. And from hence the judicious reader will easily gather, how improperly Mrs *Stephens's* medicines are often administered.

The rheumatism is a distemper which frequently happens to horses on a journey, or when much in use, as we say; and the farriers are often confoundedly puzzled to find out where the grievance is really seated; so that they bleed, oil, and rowel of course, yet without any true notion of things: for how the d—I should these fellows be able to do service to our horses in difficult cases, when they cannot truly define any inward distemper, no more than they can shew, in proper terms, the make of
M the

the machine which they work upon? And if gentlemen were as well convinced of this truth as I am, they would as soon employ a common blacksmith to repair and amend a watch, as they would a common farrier to cure their horses of distempers out of the reach of common understandings; that is, they would trust to their own judgment, after reading what I have writ, rather than to that of a common farrier, without education, without sense.

The rheumatism is often internodial, as we term it, in mankind; that is, between the joints: but horses have it mostly upon the joint either of the hough or stifle behind, or in the knee, or elbow-joint.

This distemper will affect a horse sometimes for half a year, as I have observed, when no better advice than a farrier's has been asked; and yet, after such time, I have seen the horse well and sound, though he had undergone strange out-of-the-way methods of cure.

It proceeds from a sizziness of the blood brought on by catching cold, foul feeding, or the like; and sometimes it is natural to the horse, as all horses are not foaled with the *bona stamina vitæ*, no more than all men are born with such happy requisites of health and long life.

I knew a very good horse belonging to Mr *Bates* of *Otley* in *Yorkshire*, that had a kind of habitual rheumatism. I told him not to spare him, though he was oddly lame, *viz.* sometimes here, sometimes there; but to keep him and hunt him up to the dogs, or ride him without reserve; for that it was possible to ride him sound. And so it proved in about a year's time after; and, as I am told, he performs well ever since.

English climate productive of the rheumatism, &c.

The *English* climate is very productive of the rheumatism, sciatica, gout, and other painful membranous distempers, as we usually style them. For the quick transitions from heat to cold, from calm to stormy weather, is enough to shake the animal frame to pieces; and which it would soon do, if it was not that the almighty architect has so

so wonderfully provided against such hasty changes, by so ordering it, as that the air within our bodies bears an equal spring with the air without.

The cure of rheumatic disorders in human bodies, consists chiefly in the evacuations of bleeding, purging, sweating, and the like; together with a plentiful use of volatiles; such as the spirit of hartshorn, &c. and drinking large draughts of thin liquors; such as plain small whey, &c. But if the distemper will not yield to milder methods, we must have recourse to the practice of the ancients, viz. either the actual or potential cautery, which, in plainer terms, is either a hot-iron, or its cousin-german, a caustic, whereby to eat into the flesh, and make issues.

This latter would now-a-days be accounted very harsh practice; but it is *ipso facto* the most to the purpose, by reason the rheumatism is a distemper affecting the *membrana communis musculorum*, the common membrane that covers the muscles, or what the vulgar term the sinews or leaders of the body. This is the opinion of many who have writ most intelligibly upon distempers; though I have great reason to believe, that the rheumatism is often seated so deep, as strongly to affect the periosteum, or thin membrane immediately covering most of the bones, both in human and brute creatures; and this sort is that tedious and durable rheumatism, which pins the patient down very often for some months successively, when he will not undergo the severe method of cure.

It is defined by my learned preceptor, the late Dr *Boerhaave*, an inflammation of the membranes, that has not power or force enough to break its way through towards the outward skin: and, if I remember right, he advises, or rather tells us of course, that the cure consists in making an incision down to the part affected: and no doubt but it is the most likely method; for whatever will raise a preternatural heat on the surface of the body, will stand the best chance to do service, by determining the offending matter that way. And this is the reason,

Frier 'Bacon
discovered
gun-powder
before Bar-
tholdus
Schwartz
the German,
that taught
the Venetians
its use in the
art of war.

Caustics,
proper for
the cure of
painful dis-
tempers.

Sciatics.

son, why the *Arabian* physicians were so fond of the actual cautery, and of the moxa, which is a kind of cotton that they used to burn upon the pained part. But these successful methods are now much in disuse, by reason people of the present generation do not stand fire so stoutly as those of old. It is not the fire of gunpowder which I mean: for that is a discovery of our *Roger Bacon* in the twelfth century, although such discovery, which was only made use of by the said *Bacon*, to shew his artificial thunder and lightning, is erroneously attributed to *Bartholdus Schwartz*, a *German* monk and chemist, who, about two hundred years after the other, taught the use of it in the art of war to the *Venetians*. Yet, whether or no we are obliged to him for such a discovery, is a matter of some doubt amongst the learned. No; it is the fire of a hot iron applied to the joint or place affected, and burnt so as that an eschar or scab would, in a few days, be digested out. And by this means the *Arabians* used to make a great many issues at a time, whereby to cure painful distempers; such as the rheumatism, sciatica, gout, and the like: and I myself have ordered eight issues to be made at a time, by caustics, in some inveterate ischiatic or sciatic pains in the hip-joint; and that too with good success; for I do not remember, that the practice ever once failed me, but always answered my own and the patient's wishes.

The largest nerve of the whole body, in both men and horses, passes close to the hip-joint: and for this reason, we have great cause to imagine the sciatica, or hip-gout, is the most violent pain which can be inflicted on either man or beast. Therefore when a horse has been long lame on the hip, without any accident, we may conclude it lodged upon the sciatic nerve; and that he ought to be fired upon the hip, pretty deep, by drawing strokes with a hot iron, shaped as those used by colt-gelders, either in form of a feather, or a star, as thus *: and though such operation leave a blemish, yet one

one had better have such a blemish than a lame horse.

After the firing, the scarifications may be anointed with the common green ointment, before prescribed for the cure of wounds (*p.* 83.), till they are all healed up.

If it is the rheumatism in the joint of the hough or stifle behind, or in the knee or elbow-joint of the fore-leg; you should order the part to be rubbed till it is very warm, and then oiled with the following, *viz.*

“ Take of the ointments called martiatum and Oil for rheu-
 “ nervinum, of each two ounces; oil of turpen- matism.
 “ tine and oil of petre, of each half an ounce; spi-
 “ rit of wine rectified, half an ounce: mix.”

This should be used twice a-day, for a week or longer, and the horse walked out at due times. But as the rheumatism is what we may term one of the chronic distempers, or a distemper of long continuance, a good deal of patience is required in the cure; and all we can hope for in man or beast, is only to shorten the duration of the paroxysms, if the animal be very subject to the disorder. However, as it proceeds from a sizziness of the blood, it may best be prevented by giving the horse once a fortnight, for three turns, as follows, *viz.*

“ Take the bigness of a pigeon's egg of my cor-
 “ dial ball, (*p.* 51.), and mix with it from about
 “ two scruples to a drachm and half (according to
 “ the horse's strength) of mercurius dulcis in fine
 “ powder, and give it him the night before the
 “ following purge, *viz.*

“ Take one ounce of Barbadoes aloes, one A purge for
 “ drachm of diagridium, and the like quantity of it.
 “ English saffron in powder; mix these with half
 “ an ounce of syrup of buckthorn, and two
 “ drachms of oil of aniseed, and as much liquorish
 “ powder, and flour of brimstone, as will make
 “ the whole into two pretty stiff balls for a dose.”

These should be repeated at due intervals, as before observed, for three turns; and it may do well to give powdered antimony in every feed of oats to

the quantity of half an ounce for a dose, wetting the oats a little to make the powder stick amongst them.

A horse
harder to
purge or
sweat than
a man.

What I mean, is crude antimony : but there are many preparations of that mineral, such as Dr *Ward's* pill and drop, with some others, that I think would kill a horse if given him, because he cannot vomit, purge, or sweat, so easily or quickly as a man ; and therefore what we call alterative medicines, are more adapted to the cure of chronic distempers in horses, than those drugs or compounds of a more quick and sharp operation, such as many of the mercurials and antimonials are.

Horses
should have
little physic,
but a careful
groom and
good feed-
ing.

I shall now conclude the present performance with a proper caution or two to all who delight in horses, *viz.* Never be over fond of giving physic to your horses ; but pick out, if possible, an honest, laborious and careful groom, that can handle a comb and brush with dexterity, and will take care to give your horses a little hay and often, and never come into the stable but shake up the bedding, and sweep all clean ; and with his hands, without straw, rub the legs till they are of a kindly glowing warmth ; for such a servant is more useful than twenty farriers : and you will scarce hurt the horse, whether hunter or road horse under his care, provided you are not hide-bound yourself, and niggardly with respect to the allowance of oats and split beans, necessary for a horse that performs hard exercise ; by reason, if he is duly fed with the quantity of oats, &c. prescribed in some of the former pages, and dressed and exercised accordingly, he will be free from faint moist sweats, incident to those, which, by the vulgar and unknowing part of mankind, are said to be foul and full of humours, and therefore rode by the bitch-daughter or night-mare.

Lastly, I would advise every man who wishes to be carried easy and well, to have strict regard to that part of my motto, taken out of one of the satyrs of *Horace*, *viz.* the emphatical expression of *emptorem hiantem*, the open-mouthed buyer, who runs headlong, as it were, into the jockey's net.

These

These are the people who are almost sure to be bit ; because it not only requires a nice judgment and distinction with regard to chusing a good horse, but likewise, on the other hand, there are so exceeding few good ones to be met with : and moreover, to take a horse from the shew, as it is called, I mean, to buy a horse directly from the shew of the dealer, or his servant the jockey, with his rippon-long-necks, is an injudicious piece of work, for he will be no more the same horse upon the road, than a she-ass will become a *Spanish Jennet*. This, I say, is what happens in general. Therefore ride the horse some considerable way in a rough uneven road ; and let him have his head, and his own way of going, and then, as a brute without reason, he will be as much at your service, as before he was put out of his own way about the stable-door, by bit and heel, as the dealers express it. Neither is it sufficient, in the choice of a good horse, to ride him ourselves : no ; we must also have him rid by others in such roads as I have mentioned in p. 16. 17. &c. and observe whether he goes justly, that is, whether he goes pretty near before and widish behind, or so as to ruffle the hair before, without breaking the skin, and wide enough behind, so as not to touch a hair, and that he takes up his forefeet moderately high, and gets quickly and nimbly off the ground.

This is the horse that is most likely to please his master, provided such master is not new-fangled, and therefore apt to change his road-horse upon every slight occasion ; and if he is one of that temper, he is in a right road to spend money, and be ill-served to boot. But when a man has got a horse to his liking, he may, if he is young, serve fifteen or twenty years, provided the owner follows the precepts laid down by me in this piece. For, as to riding hard, I do not take it to be so bad a property in a master, as want of care after the horse is overheated, or want of knowledge in respect to the condition which a horse is in when a piece of expedition is to be performed : for if his flesh is not firm
by

by good keeping and exercise, he will be in more danger of taking cold from irregularities, and the diseases so brought on will be more permanent and lasting.

Since my account of strains in the preceeding sheets (*p.* 64. &c.) I happened to be abroad upon a dark night, and in a very bad road, where my mare got a fall on her knees; and after recovering herself, seemed to go more stiff, and would often stumble, although she was otherwise a very sure-footed beast; and at last began to count (as it is called) with her hinder feet; which is, when a horse often hits the sprun of his hinder shoes against the ground. This surprised me a little; for I never knew her do so before: and it is what I hate to hear a horse do, though otherwise ever so good a one; for it is a sign of weakness in the fillets, as in the present case it proved: for the morning after this misfortune my poor sure-footed mare could scarcely walk, dragging her hinder toes on the ground, and wriggling her hinder parts as if she would fall down.

I mention this affair with all its circumstances, not having particularly pointed it out before, and because many farriers would have mistaken the place she was hurt in. It is therefore necessary to give due attention to the symptoms or signs succeeding the hurt received; since every different part of the body that is strained, will show some particular characteristics differently to distinguish the seat of the lameness. Thus, if the shoulder is strained, a horse is hard set to get up-hill with that leg; but is forced to go with a sort of lift; and down-hill he will be very lame, provided the wrench be violent. For there are degrees of relaxation of an animal fibre, which relaxation is usually termed a strain: and therefore it must not be imagined, that slight strains will force a horse to shew the same signs with others that have got more violent hurts in the same parts; that is, a horse slightly hurt in the back-sinew will scarcely shew it; whereas if he is quite let down, as the farriers term it, he will
carry

carry his leg as a dog that has a thorn in his foot. Wherefore, as particular regard is to be had to the symptoms ; I say, when a horse is strained in the fillets, he will drag his hinder feet after him, hitting his toes on the ground, and wriggle as if he would fall. If the horse is old, or the strain violent, the cure will be longer in performing. However, the best way is, to “ melt some pitch, rosin, “ and turpentine together, and pour it all over the “ fillets pretty warm, and clap on a parcel of soft “ tow, or deer-pens, such as saddles are stuffed “ with :” and this will keep the application to the affected part ; and if he is turned out, he may recover ; for length of time and rest, according to the degree of the disorder, are main agents in all cures, as I have before said, (*p.* 70. 118. &c.). But as to oils, spirits, &c. they have not any relation to the cure ; neither is there any dependence upon roweling, although bleeding indeed may be necessary.

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F I N I S.

Bracken, Henry

The Traveller's Pocket-Farrier or treatise upon the distempers ...
happening to Horses on a journey

S.l. 1751

Oecon. 315 m

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